

An Illustrated History of

# Battle Honour Badin-1971



Approved by

*Regimental History is  
the Scarlet Thread of  
Military History. A  
well researched  
regimental history  
book, that is  
captivating, nostalgic  
& interesting to read.*

Major (Retired) Aamir Cheema



*57 mm Gun Firing at Somiani firing ranges - 2019*





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An Illustrated History of  
**58 Medium Air Defence Regiment**  
**1965 - 2022**



**Major (Retired) Aamir Mushtaq Cheema**

Mlitt, War Studies (Glasgow)



## Abbreviations

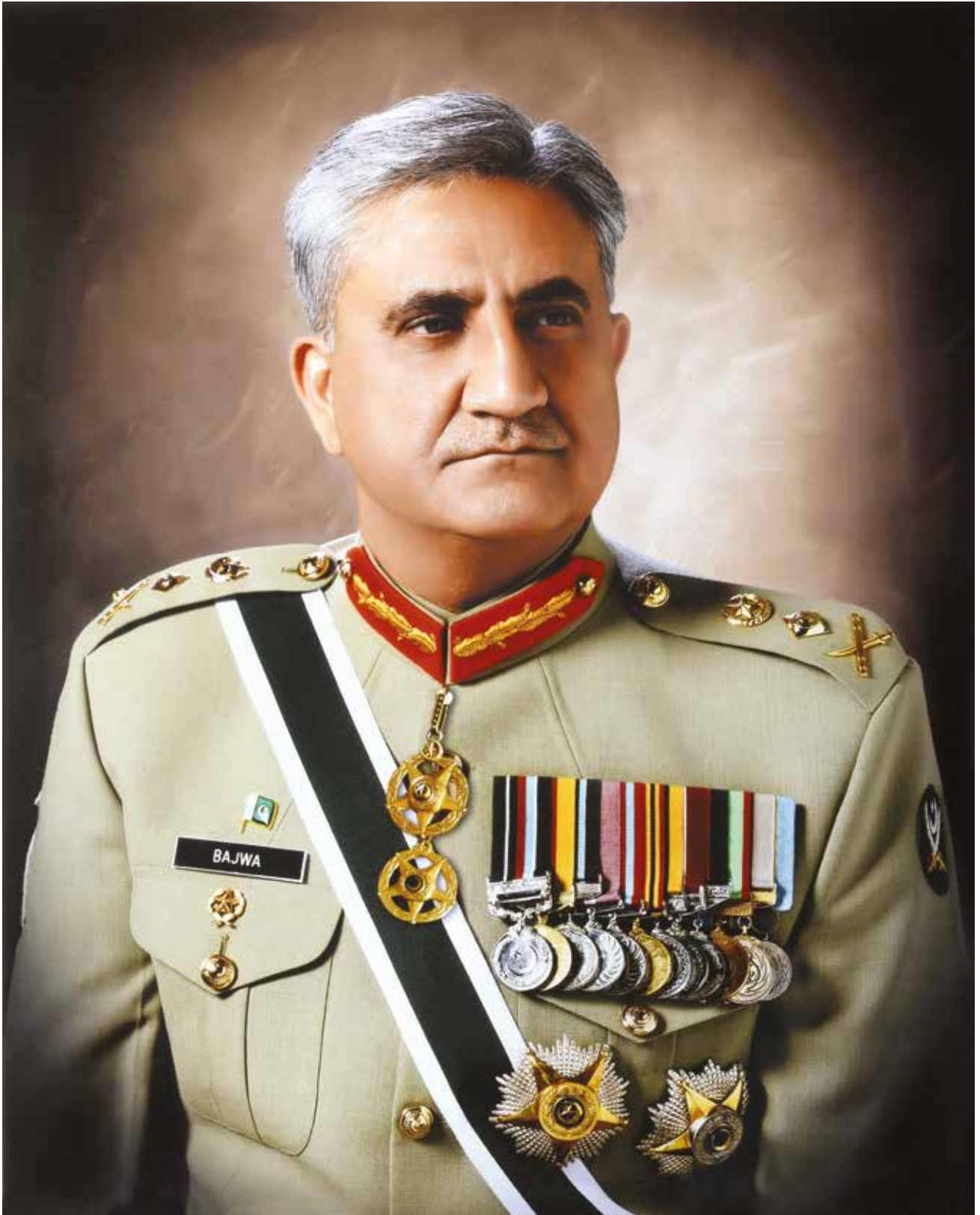
|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Arty     | Artillery                               |
| AA       | Anti Aircraft                           |
| AAA      | Anti Aircraft Artillery                 |
| Ack Ack  | Anti Aircraft                           |
| AD       | Air Defence                             |
| AADC     | Army Air Defence Command                |
| Adj't    | Adjutant                                |
| AC       | Aircraft                                |
| Brig     | Brigadier                               |
| BC       | Battery Commander                       |
| Bde      | Brigade                                 |
| BK       | Battery Captain                         |
| COAS     | Chief of Army Staff                     |
| CO       | Commanding Officer                      |
| Col      | Colonel                                 |
| Cmd      | Commander                               |
| Capt     | Captain                                 |
| DQ /DAAQ | Deputy Assistant Adjutant Quartermaster |
| Fd Mess  | Field Mess                              |
| GOC      | General Officer Commanding              |
| Hav      | Havildar                                |
| H/Clk    | Head Clerk                              |
| ILAA     | Independent Light Anti Aircraft         |
| JQ       | Junior Quartermaster                    |
| JCO      | Junior Commissioned Officer             |
| Lt Col   | Lieutenant Colonel                      |
| L/Nk     | Lance Naik                              |
| MT       | Military Transport                      |
| Maj      | Major                                   |
| NCO      | Non Commissioned Officer                |
| Nk       | Naik                                    |
| OPR      | Operator Radar                          |
| OGM      | Operator Gun Missile                    |
| Ops      | Operational                             |
| OCU      | Operator Communication Unit             |
| P        | Papa                                    |
| Q        | Quebec                                  |
| R        | Romeo                                   |
| S        | Sierra                                  |
| SM       | Subedar Major                           |
| 2IC      | Second in Command                       |
| 2/Lt     | Second Lieutenant                       |



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**Chief of Army Staff**





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Colonel in Chief, Army Air Defence - (Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee 2005-2007)





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Officiating Commander Army Air Defence





**Major General Asif Mehmood Goraya**

General Officer Commanding Striking Three Air Defence Division



## Message from Colonel of the Regiment

Military history stands witness that an army and its regiments draw inspiration from their history and traditions. Efficiency and morale of a regiment is directly proportional to the strength of its traditions. Therefore, preservation of history and continuity of traditions is an extremely important command function. The regiment's history book "An Illustrated History of 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment 1965-2022", is an effort par excellence in this accord.

The book is an impressive account of the regiment's heroic performance during 1971-War, Internal Security Operations, Operation Al-Mizan and other important missions which it accomplished since its inception. The resume of the daring performances of its officers and men has added golden streaks to the mosaic. The mention of the senior officers is akin to the jewels in the crown. The photographic illustrations are an eye-catching overview of the regiment's journey through decades and its rise to glory. An excellent record of traditions, performances, weapons and equipment, will serve as a source of inspiration, pride and a leadership guide for all.



A highly imaginative and prolific compilation which addresses entire spectrum of Athwanja's family; the veterans, senior officers, the young officers and the men. It has a magnetic and nostalgic effect which will further strengthen the association in the family and amplify esprit de corp. I commend the efforts and vision of Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj Alam Lone, our Commanding Officer, his team and Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema (Retired) whose diligence, meticulous collection of data and extreme hardwork have converted the idea into reality. Very well done and we are proud of you.

Long Live Athwanja.

**Brigadier Basharat Ali Khan**

psc, fsc(SL), nswc



## Message from Commanding Officer

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me to write the foreword of our unit's history book. By the grace of Almighty Allah, Athwanja has made exceptional progress over the years. Its war performance and achievements during various conflicts and peace are a source of immense pride. However, despite being amongst the oldest outfits of AAD there was no recorded narrative on its history which could tether us to our past and serve as guide for the future. It is a matter of great personal satisfaction and accomplishment for me that we have managed to crystallize the celebrated history of this great outfit in my tenure as 27th Commanding officer. In the absence of Unit's history book, the new comers generally remained restricted to regimental briefs and cursory references in other Army history books. This book covers all the events from unit's raising in 1965 till its present status of



*Lt Col Mairaj Alam Lone*

a Battle Hardened outfit. The book microscopically covers account of unit's Battle performance in 1971 wherein it successfully accomplished its operational task of defending PAF radar station Badin repulsing 8 air raids and shooting down 3 enemy fighter aircraft including then state of the art MiG 21. This phenomenal war performance earned unit the coveted "The Battle Honour - Badin 1971" thereby making the unit one of only five AD units to have achieved the coveted award. Unit's motto "Fakhar-e-Badin" originates from this prestigious battle decoration. Subsequently, it covers unit's role in Soviet - Afghan war (1979-1989), Anti Dacoit operation in Sindh (1992). The book also drives the readers with empirical glance on Unit's performance in OAM in which unit proved its mettle despite the rugged terrain, inhospitable weather, and numerous logistical challenges. Athwanja yet succeeded in unhinging terrorist networks and hideout in Ilum mountains thereby ensuring peace and stability in the area of responsibility. This was only made possible by round the clock vigilance, foresightedness and whole hearted efforts to win hearts and minds of local populace in unit's AOR. These all laurels



and achievements came at a price, Officers and men laid down their lives to protect the motherland and it would be an injustice on my part not to mention Col Muhammad Zahir Khan (SBt) Shaheed, Capt Yahya Jan (SBt) Shaheed, and Sepoy Zahir (Tbt) Shaheed who offered supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

At the end, I would like to offer my gratitude to Maj (Retd) Aamir Cheema for his tireless efforts in collecting the lost pieces of our history. I am extremely thankful to our Colonels of the Regiment, Brigadier (R) Muhammad Pervez Akbar, Brigadier (R) Farooq Zaman and Brigadier Basharat Ali Khan for their constant editorial insight and patronage to turn the dream of formally publishing regiment history into reality. I feel deeply indebted to the beloved senior officers of Athwanja especially Lt Gen (Retd) Ashraf Saleem, Lt Gen (Retd) Tahir Mehmood Qazi and Maj Gen (Retd) Tahir Masood for their continuous guidance and patronage in compilation of various historical events. I also acknowledge efforts of all the serving and retired officers, soldiers and men who contributed in this long and tiring effort. I hope that for Veterans this book will provide a chance to relive and cherish their memories and for an ordinary reader will serve as an insight into hearts and minds of men who are ever ready to lay down their lives for the motherland.

Athwanja Zindabad  
Pak Fauj - Zindabad  
Pakistan Paindabad

# I

## Anti-Aircraft Artillery

Artillery etymology is derived from Latin *ars*, or *artis*, terms for “*craft*”. Old French *atillier*, meaning “*to deck, adorn with care*”. In 1268, Etienne Boileau defined an *artillier* as “*a manufacturer of war engines, especially bows and offensive weapons*.”<sup>1</sup> Anti-Aircraft Artillery took birth during WWI when the air balloons were used by the Germany for bombing of London, more than anything else it created fear among the civil population and thereby directly affected the morale. On the battle front, aircraft were used mainly for reconnaissance and adjustment of artillery fire. Searchlights were a



40 mm Bofors AA Gun, at HQ AAD Command.

passive defensive measure, they had a diameter of sixty inches and could illuminate an area of 350 square meters in the sky. Anti-Aircraft Artillery guns were no different from the ordinary artillery guns, they differed chiefly, in the method of firing and the ammunition being used.<sup>2</sup>

During WWII, two distinct type of Anti Aircraft guns became prominent, heavy anti aircraft of 3 inch and light calibre 20 and 40 mm guns. Both have certain advantages, Heavy Anti Aircraft (HAA) was meant for high altitude intruders above 15000 -23000 feet. Light Anti Aircraft (LAA) was mobile and quick to lay and required less of calculation for firing. Machine guns of .50 calibre were more effective at the airfields countering the low level attackers.<sup>3</sup> In 1942, with the advent of Japan into the war and its rapid advance prompted British to have a serious thought on the possible air attacks on Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Gulf ports. The Coastal Battery as in vogue in UK, was the mainstay of AA defence for Karachi, it became a nucleus and a ‘S’ Battery was raised to be upgraded as a regiment and to act as the nucleus for further raising of AA batteries.

Coastal Artillery had established a training setup at Clifton, it was transitioned into Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Centre (AATC). Very first AA deployment took place in summer of 1941 when an AA Battery of Heavy AA Regiment was move from Karachi to Digboi in Assam. Digboi was the main oil fields of India and as such the AA guns were deployed.<sup>4</sup>

1 Jeff Kinard *Artillery an Illustrated history of its impact* (Oxford: Clio, 2007) ,p.1-10. Also see Shelford Bidwell, *Gunners At War a Study of Royal Artillery in The 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (London: Arms & Armour,1970).

2 *World War I, The Definitive Illustrated History* (New York: Smithsonian DK,2014) pp.20-50.

3 *Army Ground Forces Study No.26*. Historical Section. The Anti-Aircraft Command and Centre (USA) No.15419 dated 1946.p-2. Also see *Notes on Anti Aircraft Guns*, compiled at The Army War College, April 1917. US Government Printing Office..

4 Aamir Cheema, *An Illustrated History of Pakistan Army Air Defence 1947-2020* ( Islamabad: Army Press, 2020). Digest of Service, 5 HAA, 3 LAA Battery



## Royal Pakistan Anti-Aircraft Artillery

In June 1947 the plan to divide the India into two new dominions namely Pakistan and India was approved and steps to divide the military among them started. It was principally agreed that it will be divided on the basis of religion, thus all Muslim regiments were to be allotted to Pakistan and non Muslims to India. Pakistan's share of artillery regiments were eight regiments, including mountain, field, medium, anti-tank and anti aircraft. Two anti-aircraft regiments namely No.18 Heavy Anti Aircraft and 25 Light Anti Aircraft were allotted to Pakistan. Pakistan Army organised newly acquired artillery regiments into a continuous number starting from No.1, thus the two anti-aircraft regiments were given the title of 5 HAA and 6 LAA.



*3.7 Inch Heavy AA Gun, at HQ AAD Command.*

On 21st April 1950, few days after raising of 13 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment (13 LAA) a new formation No.3 AGRPA was raised at Malir Cantonment (Karachi); an exclusive anti aircraft formation. The existing Ack Ack regiments including 5 HAA (12,18 and 24 Anti Aircraft Batteries), 6 LAA (21,34, and 46 LAA Batteries) and 13 LAA (14,20 and 33 LAA Batteries) were placed under command. Its area of command thus stretched from Peshawar in the north (13 LAA) to Karachi in the south (5 HAA and 6 LAA). The group was the third group in Pakistan Artillery, the other two being No.1 and No.2 and both were in support of field formations whereas this (No.3 AGRPA) was meant to support the Pakistan Air Force and defend the air bases. A strong bond thus developed between the Ack Ack gunners and air force pilots by virtue of close cooperation. RPAF had its headquarters at Peshawar.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Digest of Service 3 AA Brigade.

## II

### Raising of Athwanja

#### 1965 War and Anti Aircraft Artillery

The 3 Anti Aircraft Brigade comprising of (5 LAA, 6 LAA, 13 LAA, 20 LAA, regiments, and 82 LAA Independent Battery) was the only Ack Ack formation of Pakistan Army and it was responsible for the defence of PAF airbases and radars. For field army, 29 LAA and 36 LAA regiments were integral part of the lone army corps; whereas 19 (SP) LAA was the sole Anti Aircraft defence available to the only armoured division held by Pakistan Army. <sup>6</sup>

The performance of AAA during the 1965 War was two folds, it protected the air bases and also supported the field formations. Protection of vital strategic railways and road bridges over Rivers Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum was crucial and own AA Regiments stood to the task. One of the key lesson of the 1965 War was in the fact that defence of air bases is vital. Thus raising of new Anti Aircraft regiments exclusively for defence of own air bases were the immediate steps taken by army to bolster own Anti-Aircraft defences,

Hours before the ceasefire, orders for the immediate raising of a new LAA Battery were issued, in order to bolster the Anti Aircraft defenses of PAF. 163 Independent LAA (ILAA) Battery was raised on 30 September 1965 at Nowshera. Major Iftikhar Ahmed was the pioneering officer. Initial manpower was pooled from reservists and raw recruits, later gunners were posted from other regiments too. The Battery although officially raised at Nowshera was practically raised at Risalpur Air Base, few miles away. The very first equipment it received were the new 12.7 mm guns which landed at Risalpur from China. For next two months the 163 ILAA Battery remained deployed at the air base. Manpower and equipment including 40 mm Bofors LAA guns transferred from 13 LAA, 5 LAA and 20 LAA Regiments along with vehicles and signal equipment were issued during winter (October / December). The pioneers of the 163 ILAA Battery were:-

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Major Iftikhar Ahmed,                  | • Captain Jamil ud Din Hyder Khan       |
| • Captain Mirza Humayun Akhtar           | • Captain Riaz Ul Haq                   |
| • Naib/Subedar Ghazanfar Ali             | • Subedar Ahmad Khan (Reservist)        |
| • Subedar Dil Muhammad (Reservist)       | • Naib/Subedar Allah Ditta (Reservist)  |
| • Naib/Subedar Abdul Rehman (Reservist)  | • Naib/Subedar Illahi Bux (Reservist)   |
| • Naib/Subedar Rashid Mehsud (Reservist) | • Naib/Subedar Abdul Majeed (Reservist) |

Major Iftikhar will always be remembered for his dedication and patience in the raising, training and nurturing of the battery. He despite all odds that are invariably associated with new raising sets the pace of training. The few guns and manpower were deployed at the air base and Major Iftikhar made

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6 Jhon Fricker *Battle for Pakistan* (Surrey: Allen,1979),pp.42-50.. Brian Cloughley *A History of The Pakistan Army War and Insurrections* fourth edition (Oxford: Karachi,2013)



full use of this in incorporating the basic training to AA Gunners; laying of guns on aircraft. By end November 1965, he was confident enough to take the 163 ILAA Battery to Nowshera for its inaugural firing. Between 26-29 November 1965, the 163 ILAA Battery carried out aerial firing with 40 mm Bofors and 12.7 mm AA machine guns. The firing was witnessed by the Commander 3 IAA Brigade, Brigadier Abdus Salam. Commander was satisfied with the training and it was based upon this firing that GHQ decided to raise a regiment around the nucleus of battery. Captain Jamil ud Din Hyder Khan was promoted as major on 14 December 1965 and took over the command of the battery and Major Iftikhar Ahmed was posted to 52 HAA regiment a newly raised unit.

## **Raising of the 58 Composite Light Anti Aircraft Regiment**

On 4th January 1966, Brigadier Abdus Salam visited the 163 ILAA battery at Nowshera, he spent the day with them and gave the glad tidings of being elevated to the status of a full-fledged LAA Regiment. He apart from sharing this good news also gave the operational move orders.

On 6th January 1966, the orders were issued for the raising of 58 LAA Regiment. Major Jamil ud Din Hyder assumed officiating command of the regiment. Two more LAA Batteries namely 213 LAA Battery under-command Captain Mirza Humayun Akhtar (he was promoted as major in April 1966) and 214 LAA Battery under-command Captain Raza Ul Haque were also raised. Risalewala near Lyallpur (Faisalabad) was the new operational home and the move had to be completed on urgent basis. It was Ramazan, yet the troops completed the task and were in place by 24 January 1966; the very first Eid ul Fitr was observed and celebrated at Risalewala. Brigadier Abdus Salam again visited the newly born regiment and celebrated Eid Ul Fitr with them. In February, Lieutenant Colonel Shamsul Alam was posted and assumed the command as the first commanding officer. Major Qadeer Khan was also posted as the second-in-command of the regiment. The very first act of the new commanding officer was to promote Regimental Havildar Major Amir Kabal as Naib-Subedar and also promoted Naib Subedar Muhammad Karim as Subedar. Both individuals were due for promotion. It is also worth highlighting the hard work of Naib Subedar Mehr Muhammad Khan who was performing the duties of head clerk.

One of the first task of new commanding officer was to train the troops, the very first training cycle was run at Risalewala. The gunners were mostly untrained and an amalgamation of reservists and new recruits. 'Intensive individual training was imparted through February and March and trade tests were held at the end of March. 308 out of 331 trainers qualified in the tests; a good beginning'.<sup>7</sup> By February 1966, the regiment had thirty-six 40 mm Bofors AA guns and thirty 12.7 mm machine guns, however the troops basic training and subsequent qualification record (QR) which ideally should have been completed and conducted at Artillery Centre at Attock was lacking due to high volume of intakes as a consequence of environments of war. Thus regiment not only had to train these recruits but also to take their tests too.

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<sup>7</sup> Digest of Service.



*14.5 mm Quad at DBS Sargodha*

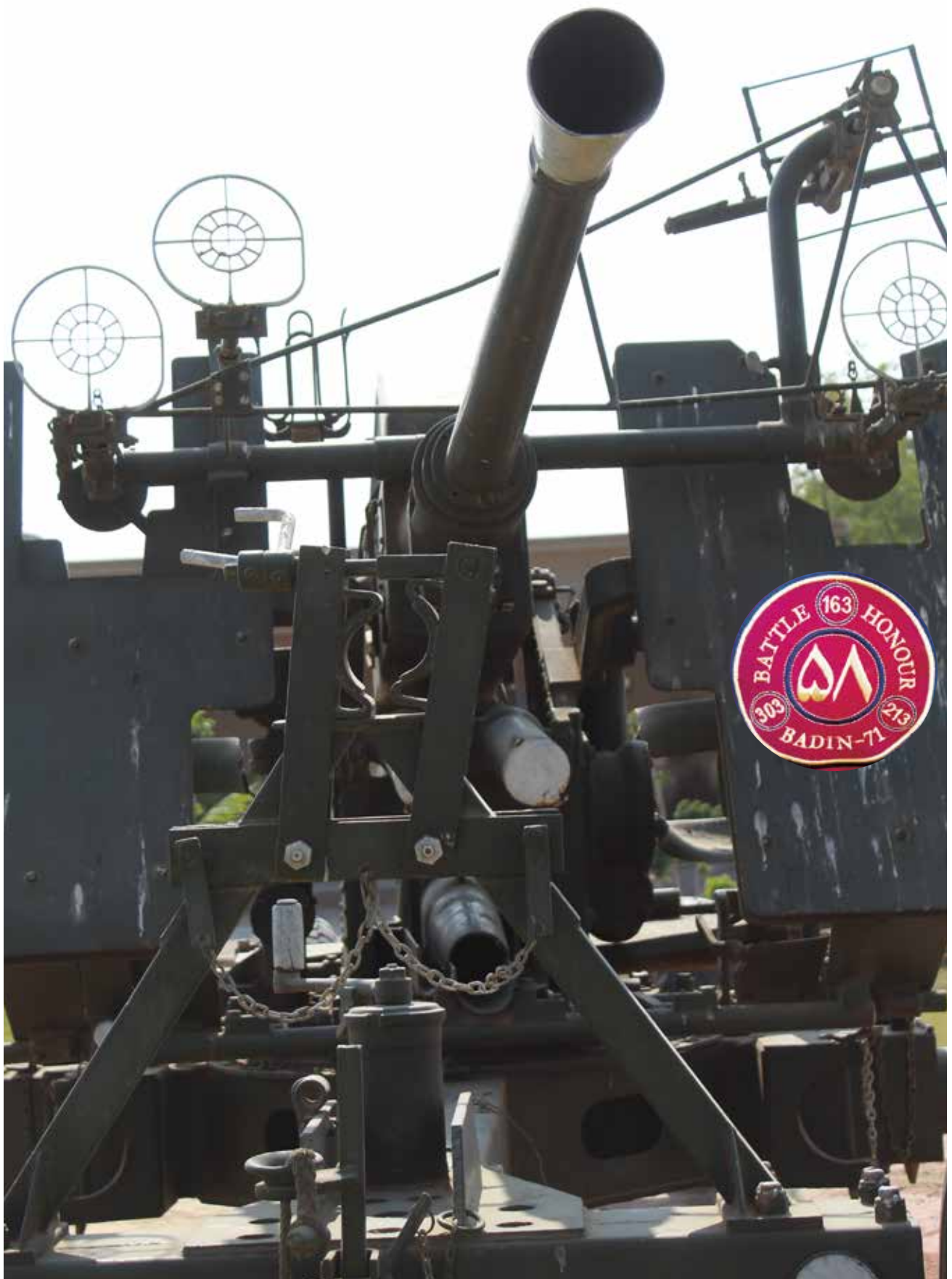
## **Year 1966**

In February 1966, Major Muhammad Khan a reservist officer (he proceeded on retirement in April 1966), Captain Rab Nawaz and Captain Amin Khan were posted in and were given the responsibility of training the troops, Subedar Major Syed Khadeer the very first SM of the regiment also played a pivotal role in these trying days.

By March 1966, the situation with India had returned back to pre-war environments, thus reservists were no more required and also the army regiments were called back to their peace locations. 58 LAA so far had no peace location, it took birth in operational area and remained deployed so far. On 17th March 1966, it was decided and regiment received the orders to move to Sargodha, which is located approximately 100 miles west of Risalewala. Sargodha is a town which as compared to other towns of Punjab is a relatively new, well planned city. It is more famous because of Remount Depot established in 1906 and later attained an eternal fame with the establishment of PAF base and subsequent performance during the 1965 War.

Move was carried out in April under the supervision of Major Qadeer the 2IC, Captain Riaz Ul Haque (both were posted out in May 1966) and three newly posted officers including Captain Feroze Khan and Second Lieutenants Javed Khan and Afzal Khan. These two subalterns have the honour of being the very first officers to be posted to the unit from Pakistan Military Academy, later in May 1966, Second Lieutenant Jarrar Ahmad Khan was also posted from PMA.





*40 mm Bofors Single Barrel at AADC*

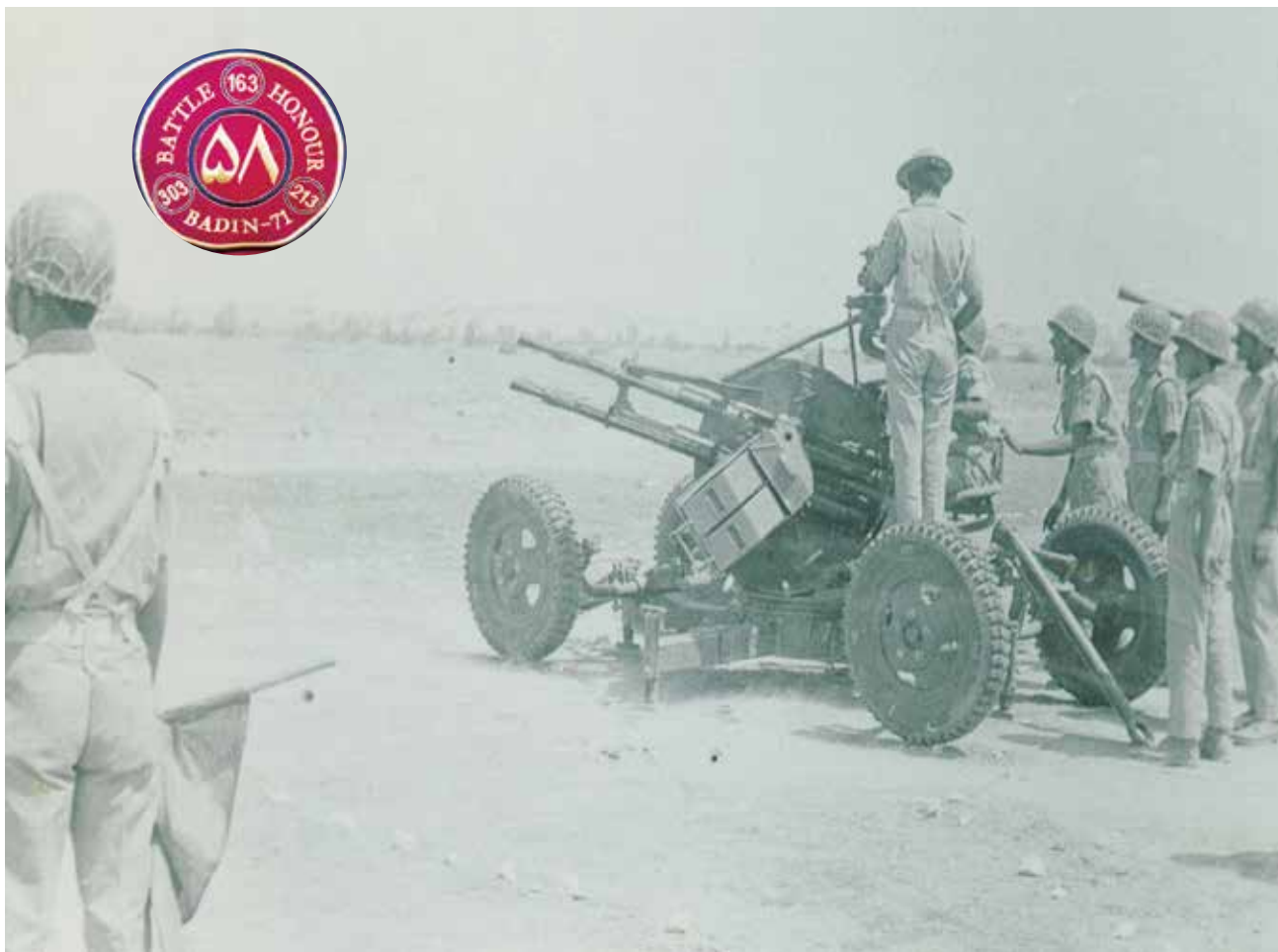
Regiment on arrival at Sargodha was bivouacked in open ground close to the PAF Base and after a fortnight was moved to where present day cantonment is now. Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Jarrar Burki recalls '*I was posted from PMA and when I arrived at Sargodha by train, the regiment was in transition of moving from close to air base to the vast ground which is cantonment now, close to remount depot. Troops were living in self made bunkers, the gun park and mechanical transport was also in the same area. I also lived in a bunker; for officers mess we had a rest house with four rooms, in one room we established a dinning room and in other an ante room; there was no television then. I think after a month or so, I was also allowed to stay in the rest house, myself and second lieutenants Javed Ahmed and Afzal Khan, we all shared the room. Shortly, the officers move to a rented house in Satellite Town, the house was owned by a Doctor Nasrullah, our regiment and 41 HAA were sharing the house. We would ride the bicycles for going and coming to regiment... Major Painda Khan was our 2IC, he had been recently posted ... our adjutant, Captain Feroze Khan was a good company in the mess but he was very strict during the working hours. SM Khadeer was from East Pakistan and what makes him distinctive was that he would speak and write his name in different manner. After a month or so, myself and Second Lieutenants Javed and Afzal, we all move to Anti Aircraft School at Malir for our Young Officers Basic Course, it was of sixteen weeks duration. Interestingly two more officers from the regiment namely Captain Rab Nawaz and Captain Amin Khan also arrived at same school for Regimental Instructor Course (Anti Aircraft).*'

The very first exercise in which Athwanja participated was conducted at PAF base Sargodha, between 22-25 June 1966, it was a low level air attack on the air base, own aircraft Star Fighters and Sabres took part in it. Regiment had started its second training cycle in April and as such this exercise coincided with the conclusion of the training cycle as well, providing an interesting and practical experience to officers and troops. Guns (40 mm Bofors) were deployed in pairs, the major lesson of the exercise was the time delay in passing the information to the individual guns regarding the intruder and even more important ; the identification between friend and foe.

In August-September 1966, the orders were received to release all the reservists, this created a challenge as with the reversion of reservists all guns were now manned by the Unpaid Lance Naiks. Thus, the third training cycle was focused on overcoming this shortage. On 6<sup>th</sup> September 1966, the regiment received the news, which in one sense was morale boosting but in the same breath demanded more from officers and troops. The 40 mm Bofors were to be replaced with 37 mm Chinese LAA gun. 37 mm had a better range and a more effective sight-ranging as compared to Bofors; however, it also meant to train the newly trained gunners onto the new gun.

37 mm gun had a delicate sight on the left, extra care had to be taken as within few days there were three instances of it coming out of its base. The other notable feature was its lack of brakes; in one such instance Gunner Ahmed Khan embraced martyrdom while unloading the gun at Sargodha railway station in July 1967; he was over-run by the gun. This was the first such instance of a AA gunner loosing his life in this manner. These 37 mm Guns started arriving in regiment in pairs. By end of September 1966, Athwanja had six of them and the strength was completed in July 1967, when a total of 36 such guns were made operational. This was not an isolated matter of merely replacing the Bofors with Chinese guns, it also incorporated an entire new re-organization of the regiment. In December





*14.5 mm Quad*

1966, it was announced that 12.7 mm Guns will also be replaced with 14.5 mm Quad guns. There were thirty 12.7 mm guns authorized and held by the regiment, under the new induction, twelve 14.5 mm Quad were to replace the 12.7 mm guns; this was completed in July 1967.

Thus the third training cycle in August 1966 was aimed with these transitions in mind. Regiment was deployed at Wegowal a small air strip few miles away from Sargodha on Jhang Road. PAF agreed to provide one sortie on each Tuesday for this training; this arrangement had a good impact on the overall training mindset. This training cycle was important as regiment was suffering from shortage of qualified havildars. *The 3<sup>rd</sup> training cycle terminated with very good results. Officers /JCOs / NCOs cadres were run on 37 mm guns, 12.7 mm guns and M1 (30) rifles. Intensive training was carried out on 37 mm guns.*<sup>8</sup>

### **First Aerial Firing Practice Camp**

The hallmark of regimental training is the firing of Anti-Aircraft guns. Karachi (Korangi and Clifton) ranges were the ideal for Ack Ack practice fire and they have been in use from the pre-independence time and continued well into seventies when Sonmiani ranges replaced the Clifton and Korangi ranges. Every Ack Ack Regiment used to fire annually at Karachi irrespective of its location, thus it involved a great deal of travelling, co-ordination and logistics. The firing of AA Guns used to be

<sup>8</sup> Digest of Service.

a major social event in Karachi's annual calendar. Governor Generals and prime ministers used to be the chief guests at such events.

Athwanja undertook its first ever aerial firing at Karachi in December 1966. An advance party moved to Karachi under Major Jamil ud Din Hyder on 26 November and main body left Sargodha by train on 8th December. The regiment stayed at Malir uptill 24 December and carried out practice on drone. *Almost all gun No 1s were young Gunners with one year service. Practice firing was carried out between 26 and 27 December. Brigadier Ameer Ahmad the brigade commander and Brigadier Syed Aslam-Commander Artillery 18 Division witnessed the firing. Considering the 1 ½ years' service of all gunners and change of guns during the year the practice camp was successful however, the brigade commander stressed on the importance of dome training, silent laying, Sub caliber shooting and range finding practice.*<sup>9</sup>

While regiment had move to Karachi for firing, Sargodha garrison was visited by Major General Tikka Khan who was QMG then, on 9th December. There were proposals to establish a permanent garrison for Anti-Aircraft at Sargodha and this visit was in this connection. Major General Tikka Khan was shown the dug-out bunkers constructed by Athwanja and he appreciated the efforts. Thus, the very first year of Athwanja came to a happy end. The new year 1967, started with same zeal, the primary mission was to overcome the deficiency in manpower rank and their training. Regiment was able to overcome this limitation to great extent through two training cycles that lasted till 1st July 1967; at the end the deficiency was reduced to 33 havildars and 54 naiks. On 10th July 1967, Lieutenant Colonel Shams Ul Alam was posted out and Major Muhammad Iqbal was promoted and he assumed the command of the regiment. New commanding officer also stressed on training and that was required as well because of change of equipment from 40 mm to 37 mm. In August, regiment took part in the PAF Exercise 'Pasbaan' which was held between 21 -24 August. Very next day regiment move by train to Malir for firing practice camp. For next one month regiment remained at Malir. First it carried training and then conducted practice fire between 26-30 September at Korangi.

*"This regiment shot extremely well and I am doubtful whether any unit will do better. They have the advantage of holding better equipment. But this should not rob them of the credit. That is their due. their handling of 14.5 mm quads... Their shooting with this equipment was particularly good. Altogether very successful camp"* <sup>10</sup>Brigadier D.P.O Reilly Commander 3 IAA Brigade Group.

## **Malir Cantonment- 1968**

In May 1968, the orders came for the regiment to move to new peace location; Malir (Karachi). An advance party comprising of three officers and 110 other ranks left Sargodha for Malir to take over the accommodation and other equipment from 5 LAA. A tragedy occurred when on 7th May Havildar Muhammad Sarwar died in an MT accident. He was over run by vehicle of 5 LAA Regiment.

In 1968, Major Khurshed Ahmed Khan and Captain Muhammad Fahim Khan Durani were the two officers posted to the regiment. Another important and perhaps a unique experience was the posting in

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9 Digest of Service

10 Digest of Service



of eight subalterns. These officers were initially posted to 5 LAA and on moving out of the regiment were posted to Athwanja. The rationale was, that these officers were posted in such an unprecedented number due to the policy of army, in which the young officers were posted to the regiment at Karachi, so they can have a pre-course training prior to undergoing their basic course also at Karachi.

The Following 2/Lt Ex 15 War Course joined Athwanja.

- 2/Lt Ali Asad
- 2/Lt Muhammad Masood
- 2/Lt Iqbal Ahmad Bajwa
- 2/Lt Syed Serajul Islam
- 2/Lt Syed Tahir Hussain Mashaddi
- 2/Lt Abdul Rauf
- 2/Lt Aziz-ur-Rehman
- 2/Lt Sardar Liaqat Hamid.

It was interesting, subalterns as we all know are ‘master of their own fate’ but for the adjutant it was a nightmare. Lieutenants Javid Ahmed and Muhammad Afzal had the responsibility to guide these subalterns.

The regimental life remained as it was, training, sports, firing and more training. The practice firing was carried out in September and ‘Once again this Regiment produced a good all round standard of shooting considering the average service of most of the layers their performance was most creditable.’<sup>11</sup>

**Mujahid Training.** Regiment under-took the training of two mujahidin company, one at Drigh Road and other at Korangi. 2/Lt Mashhadi and 2/Lt Iqbal Ahmed, along with two JCOs and 40 soldiers trained these mujahid companies from 23 September - 22 October 1968. The main theme was to train this militia in AA protection of low key installations; it was similar to Home Guard of UK during WW II. The training philosophy revolved around, instilling discipline, physical fitness and above all handling of 40 mm guns. Culminating point was the aerial firing which was held on 18 October 1968; Commander 3 IAAG Brigadier Ihsan Ul Haq was also present. Mujahid training ended with a Bara Khana and a variety show.

Captain Abdul Waheed has the distinction of being the first officer<sup>12</sup> of the regiment who got married and he was presented with a silver cigarette case by the commanding officer on behalf of the officers of the regiment. This later became a standard souvenir and gift within the regiment. It was a time and era in which smoking was a military fashion thus all and everything related to smoking was in vogue. In 2019, smoking in office areas, mess was prohibited vide army policy.

**163 Battery** was declared the Champion Battery for the year 1968. To be declared as champion battery, the training, administration, annual firing, sports, administration and discipline were taken into account.

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<sup>11</sup> Remarks of Brigadier D.P.O. Reilly

<sup>12</sup> He was the first officer to get married since the raising of the regiment.

| DATE      | NAME                     | ADDRESS     | REMARKS     |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 25 Feb 66 | Lt Col AKMS Alam         | 58 LAA Regt | On Posting  |
|           | Maj Malik Yohid Khan     | " " " "     | On Posting  |
|           | CAPT RAB NAWAZ           | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
|           | CAPT AMIR KHAN           | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
|           | 2/Lt Javed Ahmad         | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
|           | 2/Lt M. Asif Khan        | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
| APR 66    | 2/Lt JACOB A KHAN BURKI  | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
|           | MAJ                      | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
| 10 MAY 66 | MAJ FIATZ ALI SADIQUI    | 58 LAA Regt | ON posting. |
| JUN 66    | 2/LT MITAZ BUTT          | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
| JULY 66   | 2/LT Muhammad Samir      | 58 LAA Regt | on posting  |
| Dec 66    | MAJ M. AZIZ AHMAD KHAN   | 58 LAA Regt | Posted out  |
| MAY 67    | MAJ FAYYAZ ALI SIDDIQUI  | 58 LAA Regt | On Posting  |
| APR 67    | CAPT ARSHAD AHAD         | 58 LAA Regt | Posted out  |
| APR 67    | LT COL ARMY SHAMEEL ALAM |             |             |
| MAY 67    |                          |             |             |
| JUN 67    |                          |             |             |

| DATE    | NAME                       | ADDRESS                    | REMARKS        |
|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 3.4.68  | Brig. J. P. O'Keefe        | Comd. 3 Indep Hq. Bde. Gp. | Official Unit. |
| 03.6.68 | CAPT M. FAHIM KHAN DURRANI | 58 LAA REGT                | ON POSTING.    |
| 23.6.68 | Majr Khurshid Ahmad Khan   | 58 LAA Regt                | on posting     |
| 11.6.68 | 2/Lt Mohammad Masood       | 58 LAA Regt                | On Posting     |
| 11.6.68 | 2/Lt. Abdul Rauf           | 58 LAA Regt                | on Posting     |
| 20.6.68 | 2/Lt. S. Hiazat Hamid      | 58 LAA Regt                | On Posting     |
| 11.6.68 | 2/Lt. Ali Asad             | 58 LAA Regt                | On Posting     |
| 20.6.68 | 2/LT Syed Sarajul Islam    | 58 LAA Regt                | On Posting     |
| 11.6.68 | 2/LT Syed Rehman Anwar     | 58 LAA Regt                | on posting.    |
| 11.6.68 | 2/LT S.T.H. MASHADI        | 58 LAA Regt                | on posting     |
| 11.6.68 | 2/LT IQBAL AHMED           | 58 LAA Regt                | On Posting.    |

26 Jun 67 Lt Col MUHAMMAD IQBAL 58 LAA Regt On Posting



DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

REMARKS

08 Oct 68  
11 Oct 68  
11 Oct 68  
2 Nov 68  
06 Nov 68  
06 Nov 68  
07 Nov 68  
01 Mar 69  
10 Mar 69  
07 June 69  
07 June 69  
07 Nov 69  
12 Nov 69

Visiting in 11/68  
Lt Col M Ashraf  
Lt Col F H Fatmi  
Capt Mohammad Amin  
Major Raza Ahmad  
Capt Iqbal AHZAN ULLAH  
Maj MOHD IKRAM HUSNI  
Lt Col M.E. JOHRI  
Major Syed Arshad Hossain  
2/Lt Huseinat Khalique  
2/Lt A. Jabbar Laskar  
2/Lt Sultan Ahmed.  
2/Lt GHASVODIN CHUDHURY  
2/Lt M. A. QURESHI

52 HAA Regt Arty  
36 LAA Regt Arty  
36 LAA Regt Arty  
29 LAA Regt Arty  
82 LAA BTRY (Arty)  
82 LAA BTRY ARMY  
29 LAA REGT ARMY  
58 LAA Regt Arty  
58 LAA Regt Arty

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REMARKS

14 Nov 69  
02 March 70  
06 June 70  
02 Sept '70  
02 Sep 70  
08 Oct 70  
13 Dec 70  
1 Feb 71

LT COL H. M. HASHMI  
LT. Col Mohammad Ashraf  
Capt. Mirza Iqbal Hussain  
Brig Rahman  
2/Lt Amjad Laskar  
Capt MUSTARAT KHALIQUE  
Lt Col Ali Pami Ahmed

GHQ  
58 LAA  
52 HAA Regt Arty  
HQ 3 Indus AA Bde Gp.  
3 AA Bde  
58 Com LAA Malir  
58 LAA REGT ARMY  
58 LAA Regt

on posting  
visit.  
Canteen introducing visit.  
On assumption of Comd  
On first posting  
ON POSTING OUT TO 58 LAA Regt  
On posting

### III

#### **Battle Honour; Badin- 1971**

Lieutenant Colonel H.Hashmi had assumed command in June 1970, he was serving in Air Observation Corps (Air OP). Life at Malir was as usual, physical training in the morning, officers would ride their bicycles to the parade ground from their barracks. After PT, there was a break of an hour for changeover and breakfast and then the day would start in earnest. training on guns, radars, radio communication sets and maintenance of military transport. Tea break at 1030 hours and pack up at around 1430 hours. Lieutenant Colonel Hashmi was quite particular about the timings in every aspect of day. In the evening there were regular sports and then it was back to barracks for men and officers. Malir was a desolate station, away from the city and as such within the cantonment men and officers had to find way of relaxation. Almost all construction was in the form of barracks dating back to 1940s. Mosquitoes were the main hazard along with numerable reptiles, it was quite common to find snakes in the living quarters. There were very few trees mostly shrubs which dotted the area all around; many a times troops and newly posted officer would lost their way while coming or going back from their regiment. As overwhelming majority of troops belonged to either Punjab or Frontier thus leave was important.

Initially, on 18 February 1971, two Ack Ack Batteries were deployed at Badin for PAF Radar Station and one Ack Ack Battery (213 LAA Battery) was deployed at Chota Malir, by first week of March 1971, battery moved from Malir and was deployed at Pir Patho to defend a low level Radar of PAF. In August 1971, the regiment (less 213 LAA Battery) was concentrated at Badin. Mujahids were also infused with the regulars. The regiment had been reorganised on four battery in July 1971, there were thus four LAA Batteries.



37 mm Gun Training



In September 1971, new twin barrel 37 mm guns were inducted in the army and 58 LAA had the distinction of being the first regiment in the artillery to conduct the aerial firing. These guns were inducted in the regiment, however the induction also resulted in the re-organisation of the manpower. Regiment so far was operating with a detachment of five on 40 mm but now the requirement was to have seven men detachment for each gun. Furthermore 150 soldiers were transferred to 6 LAA and 50 soldiers were posted in from 41 HAA. Lieutenant Colonel Hashmi took it as a challenge and officers, JCOs and NCOs worked day and night to impart training to new soldiers and also to improve efficiency over the new guns.

### **1971 WAR**

In Aug 1971, Regiment (less 213 LAA Battery) was concentrated at Badin. Mujahids were also infused with the regulars. IAF conducted eight raids at PAF radar station Badin, VP was successfully defended by 58 LAA Regiment & in the process five Indian aircraft were hit including one MiG 21 which was shot down (latest of that time).

Regiment was awarded "Battle Honour Badin 1971" on its valiant & exceptional performance in 1971 Indo-Pak War.

## **Badin (58 LAA)**

Major Victor Samuel was the 2IC; (he was posted out on 9 December 1971), 163 LAA Battery was being commanded by Major Khalil Rehman and also by Major Rasheed Baig (major general), 213 LAA Battery was undercommand Major Waqar Naveed (brigadier), Major Jarrar was in command of 214 LAA Battery and Major Habib Rehman was commanding 303 LAA Battery. Among the officers were Captains Mussarat Khalique, Abdul Rauf, Amjad Latif, Ernest Shams, Asaf Jamil, Abdul Jabbar Lashkar, Muhammad Masud. Duties of adjutant were being performed by Captain Naeem Rehman and Lieutenant Mushtaq Gardezi was the quarter master. 2/Lieutenant Mustafiz ur Rehman was the youngest officer in the regiment. Muhammad Anwar was the Subedar Major (SM), other Subedars included were Muhamamd Khalil, Amir Kabal and Khalid Masud.

On 4 December 1971 at 0833 hours, first air raid took place comprising of three Hunters, 'they came at low level from SSE along Kadhan Road and then turned towards the VP at low level'<sup>13</sup>, no damage occurred to the VP due to effective fire. On the same day, second raid by two Gnats took place at 1701 hours, 'they came low and strafed the gun positions'. *It was a classic duel between the aircraft and the ack ack guns, aircraft were spotted at short distance and as guns opened fire so did the aircraft and it was all over within a minute or two.* Mujahid Langar Khan was on 14.5mm, he was able to hit the aircraft and in the process was also injured due to splinters. One Gnat was damaged, 'pilot was heard on PAF sets reporting to his wingman that he has been hit'.<sup>14</sup> After the first day, Lieutenant Colonel Hashmi analysed the situation and the four guns which he had deployed as deception in depth were pulled forward and placed on the likely approach. The Badin and surrounding area is flat and void of any flight safety hazards which are in abundance in major towns like high tension wires and wireless towers or high rise buildings. Thus Indians adopted low level attack tactics.

Third raid on the VP was made by three Hunters on 6 December 1971 at 0805 hours, it came as a surprise because no warning was passed by the Control, however as all the guns were being manned and own air sentries were also posted therefore enemy was unable to achieve its aim. One aircraft was

<sup>13</sup> War Diary 58 LAA

<sup>14</sup> War Diary 58 LAA







shot down and debris were collected by the unit in the same evening. Fourth raid was made by three Indian aircraft on 7 December 1971 at 0937 hours, 'aircraft were unidentified, they adopted the same tactics as in previous attacks, as the guns opened fire they turned back'<sup>15</sup> and managed to escape unhurt.

On 9 December at mid-day, own 303 LAA Battery was ordered to move to Jacobabad to defend the air base. Move was completed and defences at Badin were readjusted. We moved at noon, the distance to Jacobabad was quite long and under the constant threat of enemy air raids. We did not have our full baggage rather we travelled light. Air sentries were posted on each vehicle to give warning of aircraft. Enroute they had few false alarms, '*our action was to immediately halt and take positions on our guns, instead of taking cover under any tree, the vehicles halted in the mid of the road, with guns immediately unhooked and ready to fire*'<sup>16</sup>. On 10 December, 213 LAA Battery at Pir Patho was also moved to strengthen the defences at Jacobabad

Three MiG 21s made the fifth raid on 11 December 1971 at 1426 hours, enemy aircraft changed their tactics and approached from North. One of the MiG was hit which was later crashed at Talhar about 15 miles from Badin. The sixth raid on the VP was made by two MiG 21s and six Hunters on 12 December 1971 at 1214 hours. They approached from EES direction, MiGs led the raid, they bombed, strafed and rocketed the VP. Eight bombs of 500 pounds were dropped out of which six exploded, raid lasted for over ten minutes; yet they failed to hit the VP. One aircraft was shot as later PAF confirmed that they have heard the transmission of 'Indian pilot transmitting I am hit to his formation leader'.<sup>17</sup> Seventh raid was launched by two MiG 21s and five Hunters at 1010 hours on 13 December 1971. No damage was caused to the VP and the intruders managed to escape. The eighth and final raid was made on the same afternoon by four MiG 21s at 1605 hours. Indians adopted a novel tactics of sending one aircraft ahead to deceive the defenders '*it flew over the VP, Indians for the first time since the outbreak of war changed their tactics and gained height to observe the VP, it failed, because as soon as the MiG gained height it was shot down*'. One of the MiG 21 serial No 705 was hit and brought down in flames. It crashed about 1500 yards away from the gun position. The pilot was burnt completely.<sup>18</sup>

Though 37 mm guns were considered as inaccurate, but due to concentration of fire power, the guns were able to shoot down MiG-21s. Early warning system was not very effective during the war, however the gunners were able to recognize the hostile aircraft thus they shot down aircraft.<sup>19</sup> 14.5 mm proved to be a real asset, as the raids were made low level thus it allowed the gunners to fire accurately.

## Officers

|                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Lt Col H.M Hashmi           | Commanding Officer |
| b. Major Victor Samuel         | 2IC                |
| c. Major Khaleel-ur-Rehman     | BC 163 Bty         |
| d. Maj Muhammad Rasheed Baig   | BC 163 Bty         |
| e. Maj Jarrar Ahmad Khan Burki | BC 214 Bty         |
| f. Maj Habib-ur-Rehman         | BC 303 Bty         |

15 War Diary 58 LAA

16 Brig retired Waqar Naveed

17 The recorded transmission is with GCI at Badin, War Diary 58 LAA.

18 War Diary 58LAA. The MiG is now a war trophy with the regiment.

19 War Diary 58 LAA

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| g. Maj Waqar Naveed                  | BC 213 Bty |
| h. Capt Javed Latif                  | 213 Bty    |
| i. Capt Musarrat Khaliq              | 163 Bty    |
| j. Capt Muhammad Masud               | 214 Bty    |
| k. Capt Abdul Rauf                   | 163 Bty    |
| l. Capt Md Abdul Jabbar Lashkar      | 303 Bty    |
| m. Capt Naeem-ur-Rehman              | Adjutant   |
| n. Capt Asaf Jamil                   | 214 Bty    |
| o. Capt Amjed Latif                  | 163 Bty    |
| p. Capt Earnest Shams                | 163 Bty    |
| q. Lt Mushtaq Ahmed Qureshi          | QM         |
| r. 2/Lt Muhammad Mustafeez-ur-Rehman |            |

### Junior Commissioned Officers

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Sub Maj Muhammad Anwar | SM            |
| 2. Sub Amir Kabal         | S/JCO 214 Bty |
| 3. Sub Khaled Masud       | S/JCO 303 Bty |
| 4. Sub Ali Asghar         | S/JCO 163 Bty |
| 5. Sub Muhammad Khaleel   | S/JCO 213 Bty |
| 6. N/Sub Chaudhary Khan   | 303 Bty       |
| 7. N/Sub Ghulam Qadir     | 303 Bty       |
| 8. N/Sub Inayat Ali       | 163 Bty       |
| 9. N/Sub Fazal Hussain    | (Rear OC)     |
| 10. N/Sub Mir Baz Khan    | 163 Bty       |
| 11. N/Sub Kalil Rehman    | JQ            |
| 12. N/Sub Muhammad Latif  | 303 Bty       |

### Tamgha-i-Jurat



*Havildar Gunner  
Talib Hussain*



*Havildar Gunner  
Muhammad Idris*



*Mujahid Langer  
Khan*

### Imtiaz Sanad

Lt Col Habib Muhammad Hashmi  
Captain Mushtaq Ahmed  
Naib Subedar Mir Baz





*Capt Amjad Latif, Maj Ejaz Butt, Lt Col Jarrar Burki, Lt Col Ernest Shams Veterans of Badin-1971*



*From Left: Naib Subedar Fazaldad, Subedar Taj, Havildar Noor, Havildar Shams, Honorary Lt Rehmat Ali*

## IV

### 58 Medium Anti Aircraft Regiment

End of war came as a shock to all ranks and it took time to confront to the reality; it was the same situation all over the country. Change of command as a routine matter took place and Lieutenant Colonel Ali Bin Ahmed assumed command. The best way to redress the outcome of the war was, to train harder for the next war. The first training cycle started in January 1973 with



*Maj Gen Aslam Mehmood Hayat, GOC AA Command visiting 58 MAA*

more realistic and hard training than ever before. PAF carried out low level exercise on 5 and 6 January and then again in February next month; regiment participated in both. Captain Jamshed Ahmed was promoted to the rank of major on 1 January 1972 and assumed the command of 163 Battery.

In March 1973, one of the biggest post war joint army-airforce-navy exercise was conducted. Own regiment was also concentrated at Jacobabad. 163 Battery and headquarters which were deployed at Badin, moved by train to Jacobabad on 27 February, where already 213 and 303 Batteries were deployed; 214 Battery remained deployed at Badin. Exercise Ababeel and Saqib were thus carried out in the first two weeks of March 1973, during the exercise Chief of Air Staff also visited the regiment. On 18th March the regiment moved back to its peace location at Malir. 163, 213, 303 Batteries and HQ Moved by train from Jacobabad on two special trains whereas 214 Battery moved by road few days later. Athwanja was placed under command School of AA Artillery.

Regiment remained at Malir for next two years before moving to Sargodha in summer of 1975. The stay at Malir in post war was devoted mainly to training and in routine matters, overall slowly and gradually not only the regiment but entire nation came out of shock of war and with a new vigour and zeal, a new Pakistan was dreamed and worked for. Army adopted new uniform, new weapons were being inducted in which reliance was more on the Chinese equipment. Within the regiment postings, promotions, were carried out as in past. Lieutenant Colonel Ali Bin Ahmed was posted out and Lieutenant Colonel Syed Wilayat Hussain took over command of the Regiment on 17 December 1973. Being part of the SAAA the regiment had the more opportunity to polish its skills on guns and carryout more practice firing. Regiment was assigned a new operational task, protection of PAF Base





*57 mm Gun the very first Radar Control Gun inducted in Pakistan Army (58 MAA). Now being displayed at Sargodha*

Masroor. 213 and 303 Batteries moved to PAF Masroor and conducted training before taking part in PAF exercise “GOLD FISH” on 12 February 1975. A week later AA firing demonstration with remote control system to Gunnery Staff officers of Field Artillery School was organized by the unit. Six artillery officers from Saudi Arabia visited the unit on 16 April 1975. Also a team of Pakistan Navy officers and sailors visited this unit. In June 1975, Lieutenant Colonel Alam Sher Malik was posted from 43 LAA Regiment and assumed command of the unit on 11 June 1975.

On 11th July 1977, Athwanja was reorganised as a Medium Anti Aircraft Artillery, equipped with 57 mm radar controlled guns. It was the most sophisticated and high technology equipment of its era. This reorganisation was a testimony to the high standards of own regiment which were achieved and maintained through hard training and sheer dedication



*Fire Control Radar*

of officers and soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Hanif Samar who had taken over the command from Lieutenant Colonel Alam Sher Malik on 23 May 1977. The first batch of sixteen 57 mm guns, two computers and two generators were inducted on 29 March 1976 and another eight guns were inducted on 5th March 1977. It is worth mentioning that regiment also inducted 636 Rifles 7.62 mm (G-3) in March 1976. The very first practice aerial firing on new guns was carried out at Muzzaffargarh ranges 19-23 December 1976 and then again in October 1977 the complete regiment less 214 LAA Battery carried out aerial firing at same ranges. Regiment was now organised as three battery firing unit, resultantly 214 LAA Battery was transferred to 95 LAA on resuscitation at Mailsi. Major Zia Ul Haq the battery commander and Captain Shabbir Ahmed the battery captain (BK) of the same battery were also posted out.

## **Qadirabad-1979-1982**

Regiment moved to Qadirabad in July 1979, it was the first time that own regiment was stationed at this small cantonment, not very far from Gujranwala; Athwanja was the only unit at the station thus it provided certain liberty and freedom in terms of training and sports. Lieutenant Colonel Hanif Samar was dined out on 27 October 1979 and after two months Lieutenant Colonel Sardar Altaf Hussain assumed the command; in between Major Muzzaffar Ali Khan performed the duties of acting command. After six months of command, 'On promotion to the rank of Colonel Lt Col Altaf Hussain posted to School Of AA Arty wef 31 June 1980 and Major Dilawar Shah assumed the officiating command of the unit.' In September, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Jamil assumed the command and very next day he left for six weeks informative training on RBS-70 at Sweden. Regiment took part in two major exercises 'Pearl Harbour IV' (25 -28 October 1980) and PAF 'Jet Stream (29 October to 13 November 1980). There was one major accident at Qadirabad when on 6th June 1981 a civilian bus plunged into the canal. A rescue mission was immediately undertaken by Major Adil, Captain Sajjad and Subedar Muhammad Ashraf and 13 lives were saved and pulled out from the drowned bus.

## **Athwanja at Rawalpindi (P-K-N and R)**

On 5 June 1979, P Battery was the first battery to be deployed in the strategic and sensitive areas close to Rawalpindi. The regiment was in Sargodha when the orders came for the deployment, none in the regiment knew about the exact nature of the move and deployment. Medium AA Guns were the most modern and lethal weapons which Pakistan had at that time apart from Crotale Missile system of PAF. The deployed areas are simply referred as Papa, Kilo, Romeo, November areas. In last 40 odd years Athwanja has been part of the AA defensive system for no less than four times a total of over eight years of deployment. In July 1982, regiment under command Lieutenant Colonel Jamil Ahmed moved from Qadirabad to Rawalpindi. Prior to this the batteries were rotated at Rawalpindi. A security clearance of all ranks was carried out. Batteries were deployed at various places around the vulnerable point and area, living was in bunkers and tents, electricity was provided through make shift arrangements which with passage of time were improved. Ojhari Camp was the rear of the regiment, an old barrack complex with wild growth. There was no public transport to reach the batteries or the headquarters thus punctuality was a necessity in coming back from leave.





*Lt Col Umar Hayat. From Right, Lt Sami - Capt Zulfikar - Lt Mehmood - Lt Laghari - Lt Raja - Maj Malik. 1984*

In May 1983, Lieutenant Colonel Umar Hayat took over the command from Lieutenant Colonel Jamil Ahmed. In June, Second Lieutenant Mushtaq Sagheer joined the regiment, his posting is historical in a sense that it was the first such posting from Officers Training School (OTS) at Mangla. OTS ran courses for a few years and then the entire experiment was shelved. It was an interesting time in army or in regiment as there were tiers of officers, one from PMA in which there were short commission, war commission, direct intake or the regular and then from Junior Cadet Battalion (JCB) and OTS was the latest. There were issues on ante-date seniority among subalterns and as we know that subalterns are very touchy about their seniority, mainly as the entire privilege of sitting in front of administrative Suzuki Van depends upon this, not to overlook who is served with tea first in teabar. In July 1983, Sweeper Aslam Masih embraced Islam in a ceremony held in the unit on 03 July 1983 and this name was changed to Muhammad Aslam.

### **303 MAA Battery at Parachinar**

The Russian invasion in Afghanistan in 1979 brought a paradigm shift in regional politics. Refugees started pouring in and soon mujahedeen initiated a Jihad against the Russians. Resultantly, Afghan and Russian air forces started flying very close to western borders and at times violated own air space. Anti Aircraft Batteries were deployed mainly in Tochi-Kurram-Khyber-Chitral areas.

First MAA Battery at Parachinar was from 127 MAA, and it was rotated by 303 Battery from 58 MAA in June 1986. The 303 MAA Battery moved undercommand Major Zakir Alvi by train from Sargodha and arrived at Kohat, after few days at Kohat, it moved by road and deployed at Roberts

Garden , five miles west of Parachinar town and airport. Battery had manpower from all the other batteries of the regiment, battery commanders were also rotated and included Major Mussarat and Major Abrar, Captain Abdus Sami Khan was the only Pashtu speaking officer in the regiment, thus he remained deployed with the battery for the entire duration. Apart from battery commander and Captain Sami Khan one more officer (lieutenant) was on the strength of the battery. Our battery was visited by many senior officers and field commanders including Corps Commander 11 Corps Lieutenant General Mirza Aslam Beg (later COAS).

*‘I was briefed by my Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sarwar on the sensitivity of deployment. I took a bus (Muslim Bus Service) from Sargodha which after a whole night journey reached Peshawar. At that time there were daily wagon and bus services from Sargodha to frontier towns including Miran Shah. I took a wagon from Peshawar for Parachinar which had a stop at Kohat and Thal. Ahead of Thal the scenery is beautiful with high trees on both sides of the road, covering the entire road with their shade. Till Thal a narrow gauge railway track also runs parallel. In the wagon all were Afghan refugees, there were few women clad in shuttle- cock burqa; I was the only one wearing a shirt and trouser. Wagon reached Parachinar in the afternoon, I then walked to the Frontier Corps Mess and rang up the battery, soon Captain Sami came in a Toyota jeep and we left for the battery location. Now it was partial dark, Captain Sami enroute was greeting almost everyone in Pashtu with a smile. He also briefed me that Russians had dropped toy mines in the area thus one has to be very careful.*

*Major Abrar Ul Waheed was the battery commander, Subedar Taj was the battery SJCO, and entire battery had dug up the bunkers for living and ammunition storage. It was deployed in a horse shoe pattern, guns were not placed on higher pits rather they were on a flat ground with raised mud walls for protection, all around was a barbed wire and sentries patrolled the area. The deployment area itself was flat, a salient is formed on the west of Parachinar , thus we had Afghanistan on our three sides and Teri Mangal Pass was directly in front (north). The Russian, Afghan jets and helicopters often fly over the salient and this constitutes as air violation. One battery of 126 LAA was also deployed ahead of us on salient features. There was little use of the Radar rather it was more of visual observation, we had observers during day time. Fire control orders were given by the PAF authorities and it was important to adhere to them as own aircraft would also fly in the area.*

*Life in battery started with stand –to in the morning in which all guns were manned, then breakfast which was rich in nature. Battery was authorised extra ration during deployment and we all officers were dinning from the cook house for which we were paying. There was feeble electricity available in our battery from the city.*

*The intruding aircraft would pass through the salient; however this time of flight was too short to engage them. Not once these aircraft flew over the town of Parachinar. During day time while monitoring the skyline, area all around was also scanned, there were regular flow of trucks going and coming from Afghanistan, although they numbered around a dozen a day. Later when Captain Sami took me to the Teri Mangal in jeep, I realise these trucks were actually picking up the refugees from the foothill of the pass. During that drive to the top of Teri Mangal, we stopped at few places of locals*



*all of them were armed with AK-47. At one woodcutter's place, who was Afghani refugee, I saw, his AK-47 with two magazines taped together and hanging with a tree, it was an impressive display of locals alertness. The town of Parachinar itself was a bustling place, plenty of fruit and dry fruit and other Russian items including their double and single barrel shot guns; they had distinct marking of a Rabbit and Fox on their butt. The bazaar was full of Russian weapons and also American military kit items which included much sought after American field jacket, shoes, sleeping bag and backpacks.*

*25 December 1986 was a routine day, cold but sunny. Being a national holiday, life in battery was rather festive. A bara khana was arranged to celebrate the birthday of Father of Nation. At noon, two MI-24 gunships of Afghan Air Force entered own area over Peiwar Kotal. They were picked up by own observer and a high alert was sounded, all guns were occupied and range was calculated, these helicopters were beyond our effective range.*



*Commander 3 AA Brigade, Brigadier Altaf shaking hand with Subedar Amir Khan. 1985*

*After staying in Parachinar for almost a year '303 Battery searched back Sargodha on 19 January 1987, under Major Abrar Waheed, Captain Samee and Captain Aamir Cheema everything was fine except a mild accident to a Jay Fang.'*<sup>20</sup>

*On 10 January 1986, our battery received orders to pull back, we took a day to pack all our equipment, and bunkers were left intact. We drove back at night and reached Kohat early in the morning where we realised after the parade state that one rifle G-3 is less. Soon it was revealed that one of our*

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20 Digest of Service

*soldier had left it at the Kurram Militia due to some confusion, again a party moved back and it was retrieved. We then left Kohat by a special train for Sargodha.*

In August 1989, Athwanja was once again back to the same operational area. In 1989, the administrative aspect in the operational area had improved much, previously commanding officer and other officers had their family residences either in Rawalpindi or one odd house within the complex. Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas preferred to have a rented house close to the regimental headquarters. Another aspect was that old officers as a policy were being posted back to their parent regiment. Captain Ghulam Ali Mughul who was posted to Dir Scouts in 1987 was posted back and he assumed the same appointment which he was holding previously ; quarter master. Major Mahboob Haider was also posted out to National Guards while he was in Sargodha in 1987 and as such he also joined back. In the operational area the life pattern changes from peace station, due to the sensitivity of task, guns and radars were manned around the clock, concept of day and night fades away. The life pattern evolves into a new shape, where a close bond develops among all ranks. Sports in the evening provides much needed mental relaxation and every battery had its own courts of volleyball and basketball. The regiment was undercommand to Z Brigade, thus all military activities like training classes, sports competitions, study periods, cadres, courses were carried out.

Major Muhammad Ashraf Saleem joined unit on 04 July 1988, on permanent posting ex Indonesian Staff Course.<sup>21</sup> He was posted to 142 Gun Missile Regiment in January 1989. It is interesting to note and Athwanja takes pride in the fact that apart from Major Ashraf Saleem, Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas the commanding officer of Athwanja was also posted to 142 GM in February as its first commanding officer; in between Lieutenant Tariq Mahmood (from Dinga) also joined them in the new regiment. Lieutenant Tariq already had some sleepless nights under Lt Col Ilyas; because CO had noticed that Tariq's motorbike always developed some technical problem in front of AFNS Mess at Sargodha.

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21 Digest of Service





*Lt Col Jamil  
Ahmed - 1982*



*Maj Gen Shamim Alam  
Khan, VCGS (later  
CJCSC) -May 1985*



*From Left Maj Gen  
Agha Masood, Maj Gen  
Shamim Alam Khan,  
VCGS (later CJCSC),  
Lt Col Bashir, Lt Col  
Sarwar CO, Brig Altaf,  
Capt Sami MTO, May  
1985*





**303 MAA Battery at Parachinar. Maj Gen**







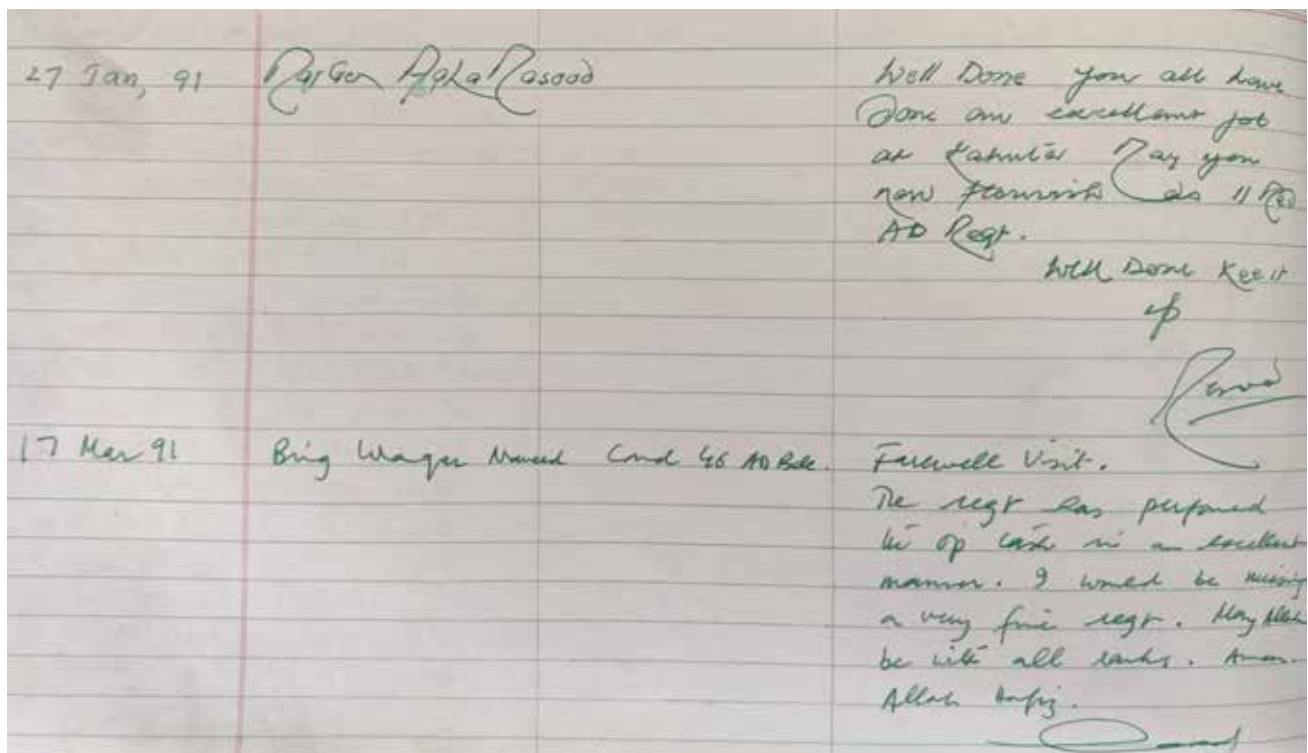
**in Agha GOC AA, Lt Col Sarwar, Maj Alvi**





## 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment

Army Air Defence , Major General Agha Masood since he took over the command in 1984 had an aim which he stressed almost on every occasion 'our mission, task and aim is different from field artillery' thus he stressed the need that AA should be separated from field artillery. It generated healthy debates among all ranks. One fact was a bitter reality that we the Ack Ack gunners had an identity crisis. There was no regimentation, we put on the same beret and insignia but hardly knew anything about field gunnery. The traditional organisation in army around the world is based upon regiment, brigade and division. In WWII, the concept of group was introduced and in Pakistan Army, during early years Artillery Groups were raised which later either became independent brigades or divisional artillery. In 1989, instead of designating its undercommand formation as division, AAD raised Army Air Defence Groups. 3 Army Air Defence Group was raised at Sargodha on 10 November 1989; In south, 2 Army Air Defence Group was raised on 10 December 1990. Renumbering of AD Regiments was initiated in January 1991, Regiments were given fresh numbers. The step itself was based upon the concept that Air Defence being a new arm, thus it should start fresh and all links with past should be treated as history. This move was not welcome whole heartedly as regiments have decades and generations of affiliations with their original name, it is not merely a change in number, it amounts to taking birth again. After two years in April 1993 much to the delight of everyone the old numbers were reverted back. Athwanja was renumbered as 11 Medium Air Defence Regiment (1991-1993).



### Karachi

In January 1991, Athwanja's advance party moved by train to Karachi, it was after a gap of seventeen years that regiment was back to Malir and by mid of April the entire regiment was in

Karachi. Brigadier Waqar Naveed the commander of Z Brigade and a war veteran of Athwanja gave a farewell bara khaana and he also invited all officers of the regiment to his house for a personal dinner. Lieutenant Colonel Nasrullah Khan who had assumed the command of regiment in April 1989 soon settled the regiment in new station. There were routine postings, courses, promotions, cadres, training cycles, sports events, model discussions, presentations and other regular events.

In June 1991, Major General Agha Masood Hasan paid his farewell visit to regiment and in September, Major General Nazar Hussain the new commander of Army Air Defence paid his first visit to the regiment. Change of command of Athwanja also took place in November 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Nasrullah Khan was posted out and Lieutenant Colonel Sajjad Ahmed took over, the new commanding officer had joined the regiment in May 1991 and performed the duties of 2IC. In July 1993, Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hameed Shah; a parental officer took over the command and Lieutenant Colonel Sajjad Ahmed was posted to Military Secretary Branch. This change of command also took place while regiment was deployed on IS.

### **Heroic Act of Captain Waseem Yaqoob Grewal and Havildar Khushi Muhammad**

Karachi Internal Security Operation started in 1991 and 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment was inducted in the action sometime during 1992. During next two years, Unit performed Internal Security duties almost in all districts of Karachi having been stationed at Haji Camp, KMC Rest House, Baldia Colony, SITE, Mochko, Bhains Colony, Steel Mill, Gaggar Phatak etc. In 1st half of 1994 unit came back to Barracks in Malir Cantonment, in line with phased withdrawal plan, but kept sending vehicular patrolling in shifts to support and augment existing elements in areas of Karachi Saddar for which it was attached with an Independent Infantry Brigade Group under overall command of 5 Corps Reserve.



*Capt Wasim Grewal*

On 13 July 1994, a patrolling party undercommand Captain Muhammad Wasim Yaqub and 20 other ranks was out as per the instructions. Lieutenant Colonel (retired ) Waseem Grewal T.Bt narrates.

‘I was deputed to lead the patrolling party shift, timed for 0900-1200 hours. Towards end of patrolling time and having informed infantry battalion (2 FF), we went to Central Military Accounts Office (CMAO) Saddar for some official work after which we were to fall back to Malir. On our way back when we were standing at Daud Pota Road crossing (opposite to Mehran Hotel, Today’s Nusrat Bhutto Underpass) on Red-Signal. My vehicle, leading the patrolling, was standing first on the signal with cramped traffic behind. Suddenly I heard a shrieking-tires sound on my left rear to see a white Suzuki Margalla Car that was turning towards Raja Ghazanfer Ali Road in a haste. I overlooked it as some crazy driving snob showing-off on road. Very next moment a car driver approached from behind with clear signs of being terrified. He told me to help him against robbers who were fleeing in a car after having robbed a bank of which he was the manager. The vehicle he indicated was the same that I overlooked a moment before.



I told my driver, Havildar Khushi Muhammad (retired as subedar) to take a left turn onto Daud Pota Road towards Saddar with a hope to confront and stop that vehicle. Having reached next crossing on Sarwar Road, the same car was standing there square to our direction, having followed Raja Ghazanfer Ali Road and turning left onto Sarwar Road (At that moment we were the single vehicle chasing, as other vehicles were stuck-up in traffic at Mehran Hotel Crossing).

There were three persons sitting in car, two in front and one in rear seat. I hand signaled them to get out of the car, instead the person in rear seat pointed a pistol towards me and fired. Their driver panicked and sped towards left on Daud Pota Road. One bullet from the pistol fire missed us in the cabin and hit rear cabin glass. Immediately I cocked my MP5 SMG, ordered Khushi Muhammad to speed up to chase that car and started firing on the fleeing car. Soldiers sitting in rear cabin also started to fire. Some bullets hit trunk of car. It was the middle of the day with all streets of Saddar full of people on foot, on bikes, on cycles and on cars. Fortunately, no pedestrian on road got injured. My weapon double fed and got stuck.

After about 200 Meters car took a left turn into a narrow street and stopped after banging into a vending cart at Raja Ghazanfer Ali Road. Our vehicle just avoided a bang at the rear. I got out of the vehicle to catch fleeing miscreants and soldiers followed me. The driver got away quickly and the shooter was caught by soldiers in opposite direction to the one I was chasing. While chasing the third person, I threw my jammed weapon that hit him in the head and he fell down. We apprehended both and transferred them to the vehicle. Soon after this our other vehicles also joined us. This incident was over within 2 or 3 minutes after taking turn from Mehran Hotel to apprehending the miscreants. I drove the captured vehicle myself and lead my patrolling party to 2 FF Regiment for handing over the captured persons, recovered looted money and weapons. The car also came out to be stolen three days prior to this incident from Gulshan-e-Iqbal Karachi.'

Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hameed Shah the commanding officer narrates ' As I came to my office, I saw bit of rush and came to know about the dare devil act of Captain Waseem and Havildar Khushi, I patted them both but also gave them a piece of mind being so reckless. In the evening Lieutenant General Nazar Commander Army Air Defence, who was in station met me and I narrated the incident, he was quite pleased with the initiative of both and recommended Tamgha-e-Basalat for both. Later it was approved and both (Captain Waseem and Havildar Khushi Muhammad) were decorated as such.

Change of command took place in June 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Pervaiz Akbar took over the command, he was later installed as the Colonel of Regiment also. It is worth highlighting that he is elder brother of Major Tahir Akbar, for a short time both brothers served in the regiment before younger one was posted out.

2/Lt Farooq Zaman, 2/Lt Imran Hussian, 2/Lt Aamir Shahzad, 2/Lt Arshad Amin, 2/Lt Marghoob Ali, 2/Lt Basharat Ali Khan, 2/Lt Muhammad Javed all joined regiment at Karachi. Later in the years Farooq Zaman, Basharat and Javed not only commanded Athwanja but also rose to the rank of brigadiers. Major (retired) Aamir Shahzad's son 2/Lt Mustafa joined the regiment in November 2020, Brigadier Basharat's son 2/Lt Hamza joined the regiment in September 2021. Among the veterans Captain Ghulam Ali Mughul was posted back to Athwanja and he put on the ranks of a field officer

and after a year proceeded on Intelligence Staff Course. Major Tariq Mahmood was also posted back from 100 LAA. Captain Muhammad Tahir and Captain Farooq proceeded to Siachin for six months attachment. Captain Tahir Mahmood Akbar also joined back the regiment from an Azad Kashmir Brigade, he later went to PMA on attachment as well. Marriage ceremonies of Captain Hafeez and Captain Waseem also took place while being stationed at Karachi. Among the parental officers Captain Asim Ali was posted to HQ 9 Division and Captain Hafeez to Pakistan Rangers. Regiment participated in PAF Exercise 'Inspired Alert-III' in May 1995, it was held jointly with PAF and American Navy. Regiment also participated in Exercise Rising Star, and Desert Screen.

## Lahore

In May 1996, regiment moved to Lahore and practically everyone had a sigh of relief. One of the major attraction of Lahore then and even now over Karachi is the abundance of water. In Karachi, water is a scarce commodity and in Lahore it is in abundance, to drink, bath and wash. Other major attraction of Lahore is the supply of fresh milk which our wrestlers and boxers missed at Karachi. Once regiment arrived at Lahore, they spent quite a time in water undergoing watermanship exercises. 'Watermanship training was conducted from 10 July- 26 July.' Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Pervaiz Akbar himself a good swimmer set the example by displaying an excellent watermanship. In September 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Zia Toor took over the command and remained in command for next two years before Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Baloch assumed the command at Lahore. The life in regiment remained as usual, concentration was more on training and technical improvement in the equipment. Winter collective training was conducted with a vigour and rigour. The technical aspect was improved



**Sitting From Left:** Maj Ali Mughal, SM Rehmat, Brig Nazir Shams, Maj Gen Ehsan ul Haq GOC 3 AD Div,  
Lt Col Pervez Akbar (CO), Maj Hammad, Maj Abid

**Middle Row:** Capt Javed, Sub Ghulam Rasool, Sub Afzal, N/Sub Rafaquat, Lt Basharat, Capt Nasir Memon (OC LAD),  
Sub Fazal Kareem, Sub Bashir, N/Sub Mushtaq, Khateeb Khalid

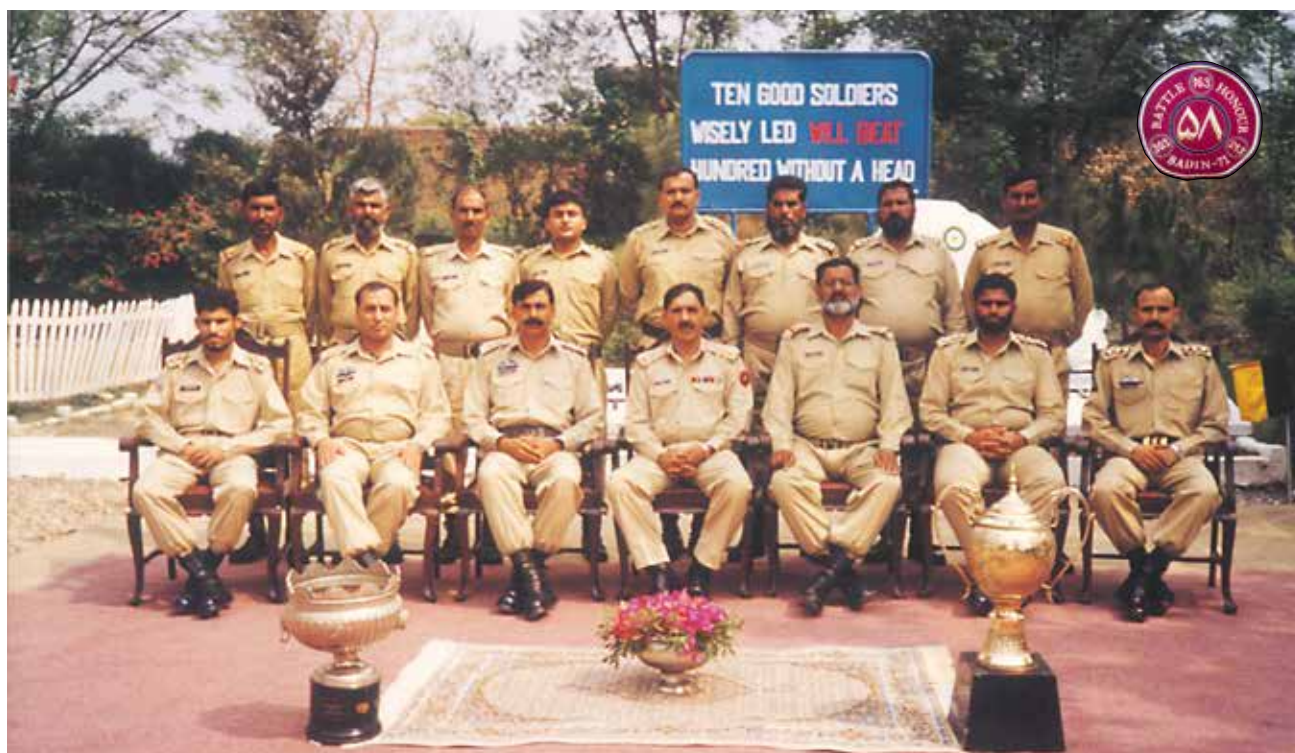
**Last Row:** RHM Khushi, Sub Maqsood, Sub Rana Ehsan, Sub Riaz, N/Sub Sohail, N/Sub Ejaz, L/Hav Baz Khan



with Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Baloch. Every commanding officer has a unique flair of his own, some are very good in administrative aspects, others in theoretical aspects of warfare, in sports and so on, however the technical aspect is something rare and perhaps a gift of nature. There are individuals who even as a child are good in disassembling every piece in the home and despite thrashing from mothers still retain their hobby and make it useful in their professional life. Athwanja owes a debt to Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Baloch for his untiring and timely efforts in bringing back the guns and other electrical system back into action, through his hard work and ingenuity of mind. In January 1999, sixteen guns were towed to 510 Work Shop ( EME) for up gradation.

**Brigadier Mustafeez ur Rehman** (Bangladesh) Defence Attache, visited the unit on 12 May 1999. He was posted to this unit as 2/Lieutenant in 1971. After the war he opted to be repatriated to Bangladesh. He was genuinely happy to be among his old parental regimental. Mess waiter Nizam recognised him, so did Brigadier Mustafeez and both had a good time recalling the early days.

The clouds of war had been hovering over the sub-continent since the summer of 1999, mainly due to Indian atrocities in Kashmir which resulted in Kashmiri freedom fighters occupying the mountains overlooking Kargil. An all-out war was averted. In June 1999, due to Kargil War, the regiment was deployed at operational bases and remained deployed till end September; 2/Lieutenant Ahsan Saleem joined the regiment in operational area. It is worth highlighting that his father Major (retired) Saleem Malik also served in the regiment at Sargodha in 1986, Lieutenant Ahsan later commanded the regiment as well. In the operational area, 2/Lieutenant Danish was promoted to next rank who later on commanded 104 RCG and 156 SAM AD Regt. Captain Muhammad Javed was attached with FCNA for four months attachment. Within the regiment, all those young officers who had been to Siachen



***Sitting from Left:** Capt Marghoob, Maj Javed, Lt Col Zafar Baloch (CO), Brig Razi, SM Fazal Karim, Capt Javed, Capt Ayaz (Staff Capt). **Standing from Left:** N/Sub Ashiq Kaleem, N/Sub Manzoor, SM Riaz (OC LAD), Capt Danish, Capt Zaki, Sub Ghulam Rasool, Sub Rana Ehsan, N/Sub Ghulam Abbas. 2000*

have a great respect, always a Bara Khana is held in their honour on their joining back. Regiment spent November 1999 in training as part of winter collective.

## **Athwanja ; New Millennium**

New Millennium is a unique phenomenon, at the start of second Millennium, there was a great apprehension about the collapse of computers with Y2K crisis ; in the end it was another day with same sun and moon. On 25 March 2000 at Walton a grand reunion and raising day was celebrated.<sup>22</sup>

**Millennium Children.** Naib/Subedar Maqbool Ahmed was blessed with a son Hamid Maqbool on 15 June, Havildar Riaz-ul-Haq was born son “Akbar Riaz” on 25 June, whereas Gunner Muhammad Azhar was blessed with a son “Shah Zaib Azhar” on 14 July 2000. In September, two children, one to Lance Havildar Muhammad Zar; a son, he named “Muhammad Waqar Zar” was born on 16 September.

Gunner Shoukat Zaman was blessed with a son “Haseeb Abbas” on 11 September. Lance Naik Mushtaq Hussain’s daughter “Saba Mushtaq” was born on 17 October 2000. On 28 October Gunner Abid Mahmood was blessed with a daughter “Bushra Abid” and on same day Lance Naik Shoukat Ali was blessed with a son “Waqar Haider”. Captain Ali Imtiaz Cheema daughter “Hooria Ali” born on 10 November. Captain Muhammad Javed daughter “Mahnoor Javed” was born on 27 November. OPR Zaheer Khan son “Ahmed Hussain” was born on 11 November a day earlier Havildar Muhammad Sabir was blessed with a daughter “Abida” . Lance Naik Muhammad Hafeez son “Mohsin Hafeez” was the last child to be born on 2 December 2000.

There were **two marriages** that took place in the new millennium and both happened in April. Gunner Sarfraz Khan got married on 3 April and Captain Basharat Ali Khan on 30 April 2000. 2/Lieutenant Muhammad Shafaq Naveed was posted from PMA Kakul on 22 October (102/Long Course). The last act of year 2000 was when Gunner Muhammad Shafique was posted from 2 Commando Battalion on 31 December 2000. The year 2000 will remain incomplete without mentioning that Subedar Lal Din was promoted to the rank of subedar major.

In army at the turn of millennium two monumental changes took place. First was the induction of the new camouflage uniform. The first colour was green, later a desert colour was introduced and finally from 2010 onwards the present digital pattern became standard. Officers mess kits also were changed and present dark blue were introduced. The soldiers kit, kit items were also altered some like canvas PT shoes, mug enamel, mess tins were eliminated and in their place new and modern items were issued. From 2010 onwards the free issue of uniform was discontinued and instead uniform kit allowance started. Even in uniform, the issue or purchase of uniform cloth and stitched uniform has been made subject to Pakistan Army Identification Card (PAID Card). Each uniform is now numbered even the cap and as such its purchase from open market has been eliminated. The other decision was the ‘**Ode to Batman**’; an institution dating back from last century and even before it. Batman, a soldier employed as a help to the officers and JCOs only. They were an integral part of army life. In Athwanja they were no different from other regiments, having a niche of their own, they had their own hierarchy, in which the CO’s batman was the senior and adjutant batman was the most powerful among all batmen.

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<sup>22</sup> Details given in Raising Day and Reunions section



They were resourcefull, loyal, hardworking, simple and confidential. Yet despite all their qualities they were often a source of mental anxiety as more than often they were seldom seen when required by bachelor officers. Batman were by culture reluctant to wear the uniform; on courses they would had the tough time specifically at Infantry School. It was a very wise step to eliminate this institution and introduce NCB (non combatant bearer). NCBs are in practice now and all apprehensions about their behaviour and adjustment in field areas has been ironed out.

**Modernisation** has also introduced the 'pay' procedures of soldiers; now the pay is added in the bank account of each soldier. In the past, a Pay Parade used to be held on the first day of every month unless it is a closed holiday. In the morning, the duty officer, mostly young subalterns along with account clerk, a JCO and two armed soldiers whose ammunition was wrapped in a handkerchief would arrive at National Bank. A long line, yet the account clerk would manage a 'token' and now the subaltern will wait in the bank manager's office and after few hours the pay would be collected, the entire regiment pay was under half a million Rupees. Hundred Rupees note was the biggest note and later Five Hundred denomination was introduced. Entire regiment would fall in, including the civilians. Second Lieutenant will hand over the pay to each individual after asking him the questions about his pay and allowances because this is how he was taught in PMA. It would take hours in which the tea would be served from canteen. Rules were that any amount more than five hundred will be deposited in the treasury in Quarter Guard and an armed guard will be placed thus adjutants and 2ICs would ensure that all pay is distributed. It was a great learning for the subaltern.

The ATM Cards also brought the demise of centuries old institute of 'canteen' and borrowing of 'petty cash from Mess Havildar'. Before ATM cards, the canteen was the main source of emergency cash, as per policy all such bills were required to be cleared by the officer every month and a limit was set by the commanding officers on the amount. For bachelors the mess havildar was another source of quick emergency cash; usually the amount was seldom more than a hundred rupees, good enough to fill the motorcycle fuel tank. Whenever the bachelors would go out for food etc, one of them would act as 'bank' and all expenditures were then given to the field mess havildar who would equally distribute the amount on all officers.

Another aspect of bygone millennium was the telephone, in army the direct dialling telephone system among regiments and stations was introduced in 1991. Before this, the call had to be booked through the operator and as such the telephone operators were always invited on all regimental functions. A good adjutant was the one who had good relations with these Signal Corps operators. Civil calls were allowed to be booked before or after the working hours (0730-1400) and only for three minutes thus it was common to see the officers sitting in adjutant office after the working hours to make the calls to their families. Booking of call was not allowed from the Mess. In Sargodha, the calls were through an exchange thus operator could interrupt your call at any time. During working hours, chits were sent by the adjutant to the officers in gun park etc. to inform them about any telephone call for them. Going to public call offices in the city in the evening was a routine affair for bachelors, Captain Suhail Bashir at Sargodha almost had a daily parade kind of duty at PCO; in short, falling in love was not an easy task then.







*TCR 513 B*



*Gun Generator*





57 mm Gun



FCS 702 A



**Computer** was another astonishing piece of modernism which finally made its presence in the new millennium. Athwanja bought its first computer in 1987, and arguably the first regiment in then AA to induct computers. A team of officers led by Major JRA Khan, Captain Aamir Cheema (adjutant) and Lieutenant Tariq left Sargodha at evening in Major JRA Khan's red Suzuki FX and reached Lahore in the wee hours and after much difficulty found the guest room at Walton. Brother of Captain Shahid Us Samad at Lahore had a firm dealing with computers. None of this team of Athwanja had ever seen a computer before thus a computer was purchased for Rupees 50,000, necessary instructions were taken on how to put on the power, it had a disk. Back to Sargodha, the instructions were not good enough to operate the new gadget thus help from civilians was taken, who above all highlighted that 'computer requires an air conditioner to keep its temperature down'. A makeshift room was made by erecting wooden partition and an air conditioner was installed, it should be kept in mind that even commanding officer's office did not had any such luxury. Later Captain Hammad Raza Bashir who had a great knowledge of computers was made responsible for this and none could operate it without his permission; absolute power. This was the first computer in 3 AA Brigade and Brigadier Altaf really appreciated it. Computer created an anxiety among all clerical staff as the 'langar gup' was that now all clerical staff will be eliminated by this computer.

**Clerical Staff** used to work on type writers, there was only one electronic type writer and that too in brigade headquarters. In Regiment, it was a lengthy procedure to write a letter or report, first the adjutant will write by hand, then a DFA was made and then put up to commanding officers. Eid Cards, their designing, printing and then posting was a pleasurable yet a herculean task. Special paper (art and glazed) was used and Eid Cards were sent to all headquarters and regiments 'from commanding officers and all ranks Athwanja' it was written by hand using stencils. Same holds true for all invitation cards, they were all embossed with a ribbon. DO (demi official) letters were the prime mean of communication, as a matter of fact the standard legal paper was referred as such 'DO Paper' A4 size paper made its entry with the computers and printers.

**In January 2001**, regiment was busy in desilting of canals, a work of national importance that lasted for well over a year. In July 2001, the much awaited induction of new Fire Control Radar – FCS 702A was inducted and training of radar operators was undertaken. In first phase preliminary training was imparted by Master trainer team comprising Pakistani officers/ JCOs and NCOs already qualified from China. In the second phase Chinese team gave training to the student from all the Medium AD unit and SAAD. It was almost after a lapse of a decade that new radars were being inducted in Army Air Defence; last being the Giraffe in 1989. These new radars improved the lethality of own guns.

In summer of 2001, regiment was back at its familiar positions and gun posts at K Area. The events of 9/11 have changed the world politics and military affair to a great extent. The immediate impact was that one AD Battery was deployed at Peshawar Air Base; it remained deployed till the very end of the year.

Regiment remained operationally deployed at Kilo Area for next two years before moving to south. At Kilo Area, the life remained as it was in last deployment. Training, practice firing and administrative improvement. The area and the routine provides ample opportunity and time to master own drills and handling of guns and radar. Captain Umar Bashir was posted in the Athwanja, his father Lieutenant

Colonel Bashir had also served in the regiment as a major. Major Aleem Ud Din Ahmed, a parental officer was attached with UN Mission in Congo for a year 2002-2003. Among the young officers joining regiment from PMA included 2/Lt Mairaj Alam Lone (who later on commanded the regiment in OAM), 2/Lt Muhammad Yahya Jan, 2/Lt Muhammad Saeed Satti, and 2/Lt Asif Kamran. Change of command also took place when Lieutenant Colonel Mueen ul Haq was posted in as major and later assumed the command.

Military trains have their own way of running, seldom they depart on time but then at times they do. 1st December 2003 was one such night when station master Rawalpindi Railway Station decided to let our regimental train depart at time. Lieutenant Mairaj thus became victim of Murphy Law. ‘I had lost a scrabble match and thus had to fetch a ‘karahi’ for my regimental officers from Saddar. It took some time and when I happily entered the railway station, there was no sign of my train, I could not believe my eyes, but then I ran outside and as it was night, there was no taxi, finally I managed one. I checked Chaklala, Dina, railway stations but my train was running fast, my other worry was the, equally fast taxi bill also. ‘He got the train at Jehlum railway station and gave Rupees 900 to taxi as fare’. True to his words, he offered the now cold ‘karahi’ to his playmates.

At Karachi, the law and order situation was much improved from the previous tenure but still it was unpredictable as the May 2002 suicide attack on French citizens highlighted. Regiment successfully conducted test trials of newly inducted 702A radars with Chinese experts. Major Muhammad Javed was the Liaison Officer, Captain Azan was the security officer along with Lieutenant Asif Kamran. Chinese delegation of more than 20 persons were staying under arrangements of “Athwanja”. The best part was that trials were successful. Four 57 mm guns were attached with a 702 A Radar and fired on Shahbaz Drone and recording of tracking was also carried out.

Lieutenant Colonel Tasir Hussain Shah Kazmi took over the command of the regiment. Also Subedar Khushi Muhammad was nominated as Subedar Major on 1 April 2006 as Subedar Major Fazal Karim TK-II proceeded on discharge to his home town “Hafizabad”. Sadly on 10 August 2021, Fazal Karim took his last breath and was buried at Lahore. Lieutenant Colonel retired Zafar Baloch attended the namaz-e-janaza and placed a wreath on his grave. 2/Lieutenant Muhammad Yousaf was posted from PMA in April 2005, Maj Basharat Ali Khan was posted back from infantry brigade in 2004. Captain Shafaq Naveed returned back to his home after completing successfully eight months tenure in Siachin. ‘Indian Army is now very relaxed as they know Shafaq has gone back to Malir.’ Well, first thing he did after coming down from snowy mountains was to get married.

## **War on Terror**

The American military invasion started a retaliation from the Afghans and as in past it affected Pakistan’s tribal areas. Till summer of 2005, it remained confined to the areas adjacent to the western borders but soon the cities across Pakistan and specially the government and military installations were targeted. With the passage of time slowly and gradually the entire country was subject to suicide car bombings, attacks on religious places, shrines, schools and so on. Resultantly army also took prompt actions, foremost being the security of the cantonments, changing training pattern of soldiers to cope with the new threats. Young officers were now being posted to the Frontier Corps.



## **Captain Yahya Jan, Sitara-I-Basalat, Shaheed**

Captain Yahya Jan joined the 58 MAA Regiment on 13 October 2001, ex 104 Long Course. He served in 303 and 163 Battery, later appointed as adjutant also. A very good cricketer, an excellent hockey player and one of the best firer. In May 2005, he was promoted as captain and soon received his posting order for Frontier Corps. During his joining time he got married on 20 November 2005, Captain Shafaq and Captain Umar attended his marriage from the regiment. Captain Yahya belonged to Peshawar. On 2 January 2006, Captain Yahya Jan reported at Tochi Scouts and was after the interview with commandant, was immediately rushed to Hassu Khel bridge where a show of force with militant was already underway.

On the night of 6/7 January 2006 at 0115 hours suspicious movement was spotted by the machine gun bunker sentry from the northwest direction (Hassu Khel), simultaneously miscreants moved in from the northeast (Mullagon). Both sentries fired warning shots, on hearing the shots the Captain Yahya made whole complex into stand-to position (battle ready). This position lasted for half an hour. It should be kept in mind that these two bunkers were almost five hundred meters away from the living bunkers and there was no communication with them. There was suspense at the post, all were awake and occupied their battle positions, firing cautiously on any movement. Half an hour later Captain Yahya in consultation with his command echelon decided that



*Capt Yahya*

there is no imminent threat thus apart from the regular sentries all other went back into their tents. However Captain Yahya decided to remain vigilant and instead of going back to his tent he went into the sentry post, in order to keep the morale of sentry high and also to learn more about the area as he was new. Ten minutes later another burst of fire awoke all and they rushed outside, occupied their battle positions. Heavy fire was coming from north and south of post with small arms being fired from other two directions. Post also replied with full firepower, this lasted for almost ten minutes and then again silence. Artillery fire was called by the post through the No.2 Wing at 0132 hours and within twenty minutes communication was lost with the post. Artillery responded blindly at 0215 hours but by that time it was all over. Captain Yahya, Subedar Zewar Khattak & Naib Subedar Sahib Wazir kept the morale of post high by moving from one position to the other, encouraging under commands, firing at the suspected positions.

Captain Yahya Jan, Subedar Zewar Khattak and Naib Subedar Sahib Rehman Wazir decided to have a patrolling of the area to ascertain the facts and above all to raise the morale of the post, thus apart from these three, Lance Naiks Tahir Iqbal Khattak & Mukhtar Ullah Orakzai, Sepoys Mukhtar Ali Turi, Khurshid Iqbal Khattak and Mehboob Ur Rehman Khattak formed a fighting patrol. They moved in an anti-clockwise direction, almost between the outer living tent and the machine gun bunker they came across miscreants who in dark shouted and warned them to surrender. Captain Yahya moved forward with an aim to engage the miscreant in conversation and replied in negative to their earlier offer; he received a full burst of sub machine gun. On watching this the patrol also not only refused to surrender but rather attacked the miscreants who were hiding in darkness. Fighting Patrol charged but they all embraced shahadat.

Captain Yahya Jan shaheed was decorated with Sitara-i- Basalat for his exemplary leadership , courage and boldness. News of Captain Yahya Jan's shahadat and his bravery was received in the regiment with a pride and also with a partial sadness. In army life and especially in Athwanja the officers are groomed by commanding officers in a manner where the interest of the country comes foremost. An officer is a leader of men, he is as such

a symbol of courage and bravery. Captain Yahya Jan by sacrificing his life in the cause of motherland has set an example for all other officers and troops. Athwanja is proud of his son. Lieutenant Colonel Tasir Hussain Shah Kazmi, Major Nadeem Saddal, Major Javed, Captain Umer Farooq and Captain Mairaj all flew from Karachi at their own to attend the funeral of their great companion and son of “Athwanja” at Peshawar on 8 January 2006. Quran Khawani at Malir Station was conducted for the soul of Captain Yahya Jan Shaheed. GOC Air Defence Division, Major General Syed Muhammad Owais also attended and appreciated the bravery of Captain Yahya Jan .

**Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Zahir**, took over the command of the regiment on 7 September 2006 and remained in command till August 2008; when he was posted to Inter Services Selection Board (ISSB) at Kohat. He, embraced martyrdom on 4 June 2014 while travelling in his official jeep, proceeding to the office when a suicide bomb exploded at Fateh Jang railway crossing. His Namaz-e-Janaza was attended by maximum officers and jawans of Athwanja. During this period regiment took part in Tri- Services Exercise ‘Sea Spark’ 30 November -13 December 2006. In March 2008, Commander AAD Lieutenant General Muhammad Ashraf Saleem visited the unit on 29 March 2008, it is worth highlighting that he served in Athwanja at Sargodha, and commanded 213 Battery.



*Lt Col Muhammad Zahir*



*Sitting Left to Right: Maj Tahir, Maj Hafeez, Lt Col Zahir, Brig (retd) Pervez Akbar, Mr. Jan (Father of Capt Yahya, Shaheed),*

*SM Khushi, Capt Mohsin Central Row: Lt Asif, Capt Umar, Maj Mughees, Capt Mairaj, Capt Saeed, Capt Bilal,*

*Last Row: N/Sub Ameer, N/Sub Ismail, Sub Zafar, Sub Habib, N/Sub Akram, Khateeb Asim, Sub Shair Muhammad, N/Sub Khushi TBt, N/Sub Naveed, RHM Umar*

**Lieutenant Colonel Farooq Zaman** assumed the command of 58 Medium AD regiment on 14 August 2008. A new tradition was introduced in the army for change of command at all level; it should be held on 14 August and a proper ceremony to be arranged in which the outgoing commanding officer hands over the command baton to new. Athwanja moved to Sonmiani AD Ranges to carryout AD practise firing on 4 October 2008 and was declared Best Medium AD Regiment of 4 AD Division,



COAS, General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani NI (M) presented the shield to Athwanja on 26 November 2008.

Ironically a terror attack struck Mumbai on same date resultantly India as usual put the blame on Pakistan. Athwanja was also deployed in January 2009 at operational bases to counter any untoward incident; on radar was moved at night, by road to Jiwani Naval Base. Todate this has been the longest drive of the regimental early detection 514 Radar. Batteries moved back in last week of April 2009.

Subedar Major Khushi Muhammad was given a farewell Bara Khana on his retirement in July 2009; an excellent human being, 'Khushia' as he was lovingly known since he was a soldier, was a renowned wrestler of his time. He served as SM from 2006.

In early September 2010, Major Amjad Rasool was posted from , Military Intelligence Directorates and on 24 September 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and assumed the command of Athwanja. December turned out to be quite exciting as Major Basharat Ali Khan proceeded to Sri Lanka to attend Foreign Staff Course , Captain Gulfam Shaheen was posted in from headquarters of an infantry brigade, and on the last day of the decade . Major Marghoob Ali Khan was retired.



*General Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani COAS shaking hands and presenting Best Medium AD Regt to Lt Col Farooq Zaman  
at Somiani AD Firing Ranges*

## **Champion Regiment Trophy**

Athwanja was awarded 4 Air Defence Division 'Champion Regiment Trophy', on 16 May 2011. It speaks volumes for the efforts of commanding officers and all ranks. To be The Best among the best requires dedication, self-discipline, hard work, devotion to the profession and a sense of belonging to the regiment. 'Meri Unit Meri Izzatt' because all facets of military life like training, sports, discipline, administration, turn out carries points. In Apr 2012 2/Lt Muhammad Annas Bin Khalil got posted to unit from PMA. He reported in the unit after a 15 days joining time.

Change of Command ceremony was held on 30 August 2012. Lieutenant Colonel Basharat Ali Khan took over the command from Lieutenant Colonel Amjad Rasool. Apart from routine regimental life, Inter Service Exercise ‘Sea Spark’(10 September-1 October 2012) was held in which regiment took an active part. Q and R Batteries were deployed at Port Qasim and Karachi Harbour. Reconnaissance of operational areas, Winter Collective training were also undertaken. One notable participation was in the General Elections of May 2013, during which Athwanja was also called ‘In Aid of Civil Power’.

**Rank Wearing Ceremony.** Rank wearing ceremony of ‘Parental Officers’ of Athwanja was held on 23 July 2013 on their promotions. Maj (Retd) Mussarat was the Chief Guest.

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Colonel Asim Ali            | Brigadier          |
| Lieutenant Col Farooq Zaman | Colonel            |
| Major Javed Iqbal           | Lieutenant Colonel |

In August 2013, Athwanja moved from Malir to Zulu Area under-command Lieutenant Colonel Basharat Ali Khan and remained deployed till December 2017. Lieutenant Colonel Javed Iqbal took over the command and later handed over to Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem Malik. Athwanja lived up to its reputation and earned laurels in every field. Unit played a pivotal role in the conduct of Census and Lt Col Ahsan was awarded COAS Commendation Card.









*Maj (R) Mussarat*

*Col Farooq Zaman*



*Brig Asim*



## Sargodha 2018-2021

Years 2018-2021 are monumental in the regimental history as the events reflect the ever changing military life pattern. It is a showcase of a regiment, the very essence which makes military life so attractive, adventurous, fulfilling and also reflects the modern way of warfare. In January 2018, the regiment arrived at Sargodha from 'Kilo Area' under command Lieutenant Colonel Saleem Hayat and was warmly welcomed by the AD Division Commander Major General Sarfraz. It is worth highlighting that old pattern of monthly Darbar has been renamed as Raabta in 2015; thus there are monthly commanding officers Raabta meetings with regiment. Major Amjad was posted out as platoon commander at PMA, the very first from our regiment '*unfortunately young officers were late at his dine out dinner*'.<sup>23</sup> In February reconnaissance of new operational areas was carried out by commanding officer '*Unit carried out analysis of operational plans and updated all plans on the basis of analysis. Unit also carried out maintenance of defence work.*' In March, regiment was visited by the Brigade Commander Brigadier Arshad Awan '*Commander was taken by a surprise to see one-month old unit at the station in so befitting and exemplary manner. Commander appreciated the relentless efforts of all ranks to settle and established unit in so short time.*' Few days later Major General Sarfraz also visited the regiment. '*GOC welcomed the unit at new station and expressed his satisfaction, he emphasized on the importance of PT and games in Army and advised all to attend physical activities with punctuality*'.

In April, regiment welcomed Second Lieutenant Muhammad Shehryar from PMA, he took part in inter regiment Qirat Competition and secured first position. Colonel of the Regiment installation ceremony was conducted in which Brigadier Farooq Zaman was installed as the new Colonel of the regiment, a mega event in every sense as over fifty veteran soldiers and officers from all across the country came for this.<sup>24</sup> Regiment was also tasked for the organization of 7<sup>th</sup> Army PACES Competition. This is primarily a training event in which all formations of army take part, thus its administrative and the organization is a gigantic task.

*Unit was assigned the responsibility for conduct of 7<sup>th</sup> Army PACES Championship at Moin Stadium, Sargodha. Complete administrative arrangements including provision of food, tea break to officers, officials and players was the responsibility of 58 Medium AD Regiment during competition. Unit took this massive task as a challenge. Major Asmat Ullah was overall responsible for this event. He worked tirelessly to maintain the ground as well as all other arrangements.*<sup>25</sup>

In the summer of 2018, apart from regular activities of training and sports competitions, regiment also took part in the conduct of General Elections in Tehsil Kot Momin for a week. Next month, in August, regiment conducted an intensive training cycle of 72 hours. This is a modern concept in which for over three days the entire regiment is deployed and conducts an operational cycle simulating counter-measures against an enemy air attack. Regiment also conducted a formation level driving

<sup>23</sup> Digest of Service.

<sup>24</sup> Details are covered in the Reunion section.

<sup>25</sup> Digest of Service.

cadre for three weeks at Wegowal Air-Field. The driving cadre still retains its old values and charm, only thing that has changed over the decades are the vehicles. The young soldiers who are posted from AAD Centre are already marked as drivers and given basic driving training before being posted to regiments; however that training has to be polished on the vehicles held by the formation. Land Rover, is currently the mainstay of small vehicles alongwith Toyota. Wegowal is an old disused airstrip dating back to WWII, few miles away from Sargodha. Time has changed and as such new technologies have also improved the military pattern of life. In 1986, a similar driving cadre was also conducted by the regiment on Matador, Unimog and M-38 vehicles. Tents were pitched in the open, a cook house established for well over fifty students. The concept of security was very different from present, a lone sentry at night with a stick was good enough. The quartermaster responsible for the camp would fetch the fresh milk and vegetables on payment from the adjacent village. There was no electricity and only communication with rear was on a GRC-9 set; on regular intervals ‘ all ok ‘ would be passed. Young officers are the ones who are given the responsibility to overlook the cadres; thus these youngsters also get a good opportunity to officially learn the driving and than pass the driving test to be entitled for a much coveted Military Driving License; a small red colour booklet.

In September 2018, regiment apart from having an ammunition technical inspection was also employed on internal security duties during the Muharram at Tehsil Sahiwal. In October, Athwanja prepared and took part in the Biennial AD Practice Firing. The advance party comprising of fifty soldiers and an officer left at the end of September and in first week of October the main body also reached Muzzaffargarh Firing Ranges. This practice firing is the hallmark of the entire two years of training, all regimental training activities are culminated in this fire. The entire AD Division is camped for a fortnight to carryout the fire. There are discussions, debates, manuals are opened and consulted, experiences are recalled; aim is to hit and down the sleeve or drone. The new gunners (OGM) gets their first taste of actual fire of the 57 mm gun, drills are rehearsed time and again to an extent that actions becomes natural. It takes years of such practice fires before a seasoned AD gunner is matured.

*The unit shot down two drones displaying highest standard of operational preparation and training.*<sup>26</sup>

In October 2018, Major Mairaj Lone was posted from the divisional headquarters where he was performing duties as G-2 operations; also Second Lieutenant Luqman was posted from PMA, whereas the 2/ Lieutenant Shehryar proceeded on basic course. The pattern of army courses has also been refined in the light of new paradigms. The duration of training at PMA remains two years yet the duration of the academic degree is four years now. Thus subalterns even after joining the regiments have to undergo weeks of academic cadres in connection with the bachelors of arts or science degree. The courses at all school of instructions are added and recognized as part of the academic degree. The basic course at Infantry School is also now extended to well over six months and have multiple legs, mainly focusing on the physical fitness and minor operations. Air Defence Gunnery Staff Course is also now more competitive, the officers having good results in basic and mid- career are marked by military secretary branch for the course and half of the seats are open through competitive entrance examination. Similarly for soldiers, it is mandatory and a pre-requisite to undergo and pass basic combat course (BCC) in divisional battle schools, the duration is over six weeks.

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26 Digest of Service





*On 13 May 2019, Lt Col Ahsan Saleem handed over the 'command stick' to Lt Col Mairaj Alam Lone. Command ceremony was held at PAF Base Mushaf where Base Commander was chief guest. Father of Lt Col Lone is also present.*







*Sitting Left to Right: SM Abid, Lt Col Wajid CO 125 SCR, Maj Mehmood attached, Lt Col Ahsan, Lt Col Mairaj, Maj Bangash, Maj Najeeb  
Standing: Capt Ali, Capt Matee, Capt Zafeer, Capt Aqeel, 2/Lt Usman*



*Sitting Left to Right: Sub Shahnawaz, SM Qadir (OC LAD), SM Abid, Lt Col Ahsan, Lt Col Mairaj, Sub Hameed, N/Sub Shehbaz  
Standing: N/Sub Asif, N/Sub Mehfooz, N/Sub Nabi Baksh, N/Sub Shabbir, RQ Mateen, Hav Amin, Hav Skindar, N/Sub Ashiq, Hav Hasnain*



Regiment was selected and earmarked for operational deployment in Swat. Regiment was fortunate to be selected for deployment in the operational area as part of war on terror or Operation Al Mizan. Few other Air Defence regiments have also been part of infantry formations in the said operation from 2010. Athwanja was earmarked in 2018 and from the day they received the letter a new spirit emerged. Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem and his team of officers worked around the clock to ensure that the troops get the requisite training but also the mental orientation should be engraved in all ranks. The fact remains that being an Air Defence regiment the working and training alongwith equipment is orientated towards a specific mission; to shot down the enemy aircraft. Now the task, mission and aim is different altogether. By 2019, the army procedures were almost perfect in every sense, the decade long experience of own Air Defence regiments has resulted in preparing the new regiments for induction. In November 2018, the regiment took part in all sports competitions and also conducted a Model Discussion which was attended by Commander Army AD. In December 2018, regiment also took part in the AD practice fire at Sonmiani. Thus the year ended on a happy note. This reflects a typical year in the life of the regiment and as the veterans can recall and sense that the routine remains the same only the intensity is now more. The war on Terror has brought few fundamental changes, most important that now all ranks are armed around the clock, Small arms firing practice is now a routine affair, small calibre ranges are now in every cantonment where all ranks can carry out firing practice at any given time. Physical fitness is utmost priority, the working hours of army are now from 0730-1500 hours with two days off. The quality and quantity of ration for soldiers has been increased and improved so is the pay structure. Perhaps the most vital change from regiment perspective is the 'regimentation' now the parental officers are rotated back to Athwanja for command.

## 2019 - Operational Deployment

New year started well and on 6 January, the raising day was celebrated in the regimental lines, with the junior most soldier performing the ceremony of cutting the regimental cake; a good tradition. Lieutenant Shehryar was also promoted with commanding officer putting him the second pip. In February the Indian tried to be 'funny' and within hours learnt a lesson when their Mig-21 was shot down and subsequent 'tea is fantastic'. Regiment and all other air defence elements were deployed at the pre-designated



*Air Cdre (AVM) Imran, Base Commander PAF Base Rafiqui and CO 58 MAA*

operational areas to counter any Indian misadventure. Athwanja remained deployed till the last week of June 2019 at Murid, Mushaf and Rafiqui. It was one of the longest deployment in last thirty years. The life at airbases have their own flair, PAF is a highly professional arm and they (air bases) extended full support to the deployed batteries. Brigade and divisional commanders frequently visited the deployed batteries. While being deployed, Major Mairaj Lone was promoted to next rank and then was posted to command the Athwanja as well. Captain Aqeel Jibran got married during the same escalation his marriage ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Usman as a representative of the regiment. Change of command ceremony also took place at Mushaf Air Base.

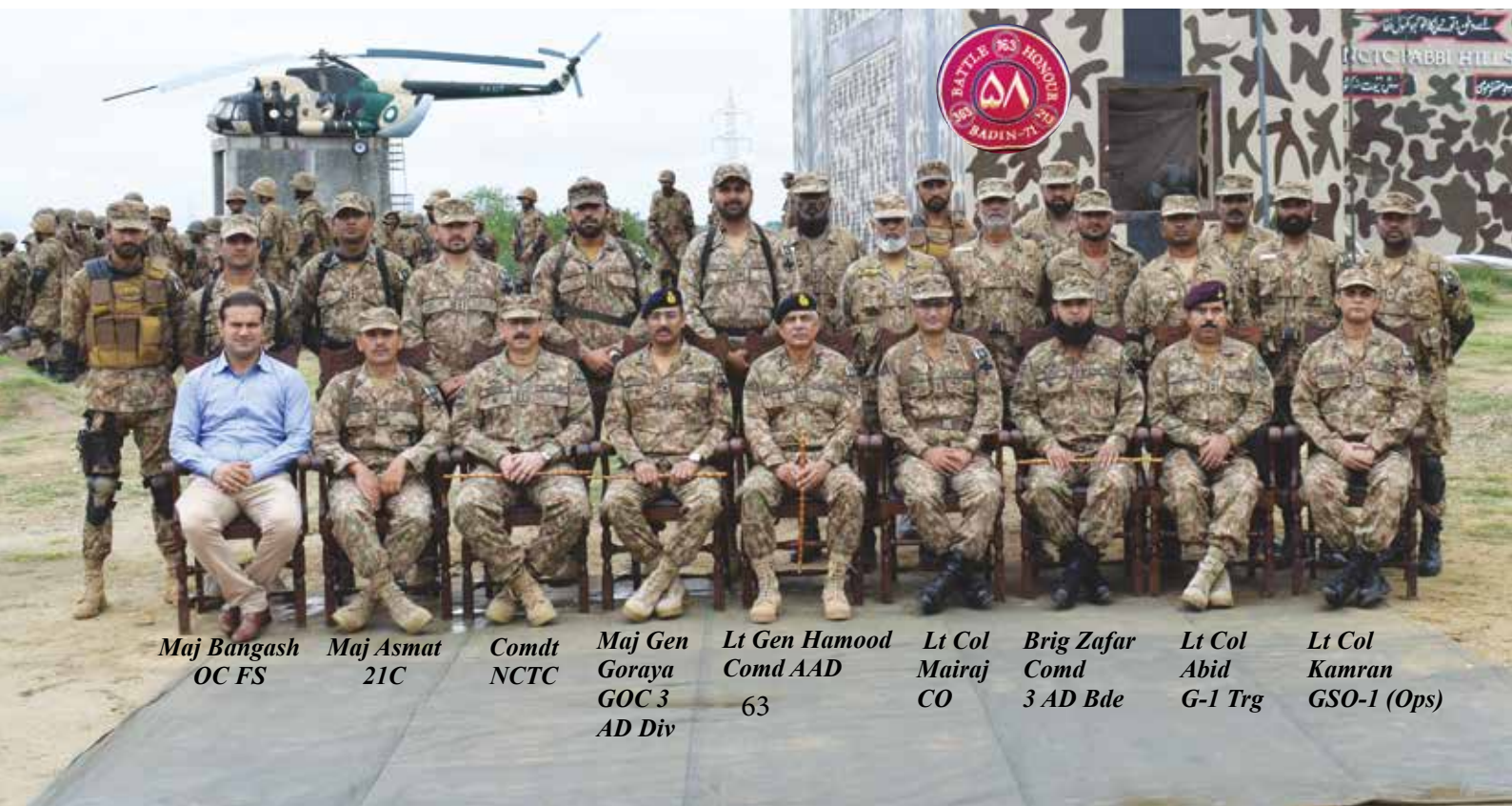
## VII

### Swat and Buner 2019-2021

#### Pabbi - July 2019

In July, the entire regiment moved to Pabbi hills where a state of art training centre custom designed and built for training of troops in War on Terror was established few years ago known as National Counter-Terrorism Training Centre. There are special cadre of instructors comprising of officers and soldiers from all arms who are expert in imparting non- conventional training to regiments before being inducted in operational areas. The layout and geography of the ground resembles to the operational areas During training the entire regiment irrespective of rank are put through a very tough physical regime, handling of weapons, live firing, patrolling, ambush, quick reactions in case of any incident. It has been highlighted that own regiment was undergoing the physical and small arms firing practice for last one year and during the first phase the ‘evaluators’ conducted tests and after their satisfaction the regiments are taken to Pabbi; our regiment passed all such tests with flying colours. It goes to the credit of commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj that he inculcated such paradigm among all ranks. It will not be out of context to highlight that he himself has been through advance infantry course at Cherat, a liaison officer with mountaineering expedition and above all has served as a captain twice in northern areas.

Troops were happy and displayed a very high standard of morale and enthusiasm in undergoing all these physical training which includes repelling, survival nights, close combat , unarmed combat, running five miles with heavy weights, assault course, rope climbing. The drivers are also given special training in driving under live small arms fire, two men teams on motorcycles ; riding and firing. In nutshell, it is soldiers dream life. As a policy, all men of regiment who were employed on various administrative duties with headquarters were recalled and regiment had full strength of manpower and equipment. New equipment was also issued and troops were accustomed with its use.



*Maj Bangash  
OC FS*

*Maj Asmat  
21C*

*Comdt  
NCTC*

*Maj Gen  
Goraya  
GOC 3  
AD Div*

*Lt Gen Hamood  
Comd AAD  
63*

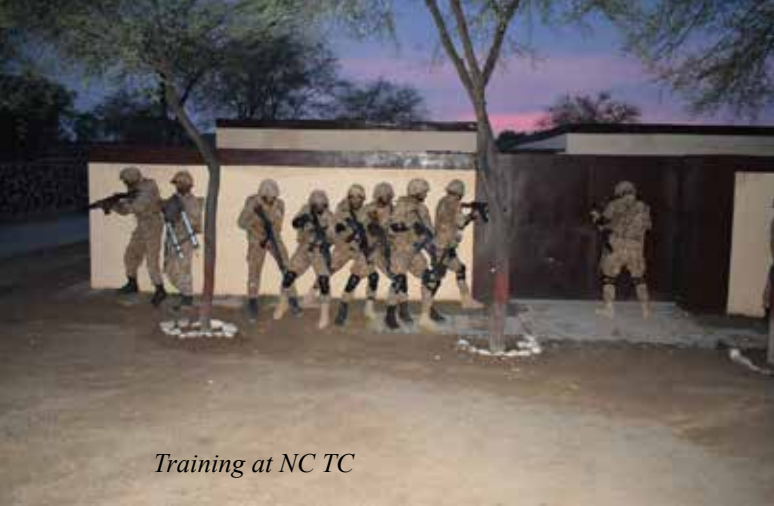
*Lt Col  
Mairaj  
CO*

*Brig Zafar  
Comd  
3 AD Bde*

*Lt Col  
Abid  
G-1 Trg*

*Lt Col  
Kamran  
GSO-1 (Ops)*





*Training at NC TC*



Commander AD Command Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman NI (M) also visited the NCTC and saw the training of the regiment and expressed his satisfaction, during his address to the regiment he appreciated all ranks devotion to the objective and also gave useful and important advices .

At the end of six weeks training, regiment underwent a rigorous test. Regiment's morale can be gauged from the fact that at the end, it held a rank wearing ceremony, re-union and a variety programme. Colonel Basharat an ex commanding officer of Athwanja was promoted to the rank of brigadier, Lieutenant Colonel Javed Ahmed to the rank of colonel (he is now a brigadier). The regiment gave a display of the training and the feeling of retired officers and other ranks who had come from various towns and cities to boost the morale of the regiment, is beyond words to express. The very scene of own troops moving and clearing the compounds with live firing is something which the older generation had seldom witnessed in Ack Ack or AD Regiments in their time. One really feels proud of present team and at times there are regrets among the older 'kash hum bi aaj hissa laey saktey'. The entire regiment was beaming and radiating a unique aura of confidence which only comes after one has toiled hard. Troops later presented a variety show in which , soldiers sang, performed skits, laughed and simply enjoyed the moment. Retired JCOs including Taj Sahib, Rehmat Sahib, Khushi Sahib, were present, they hired a taxi from Sargodha to be with the regiment. Among the officers brigadier retired Pervaiz Akbar, lieutenant colonel retired Zafar Baloch, brigadier retired Aleem Ud Din, lieutenant colonel retired Khalid Hameed Shah, majors retired Abid and Cheema were present. Regiment than travelled back to Sargodha and within days moved to operational area Swat.

## **Road To Swat**

On 20 August 2019 early in the morning the advance party of the regiment moved out from Sargodha under-command Major Raees. They had a night stay at Risalpur and next



*MT Convoy of Athwanja*

morning reached Swat, where in small parties they started taking over the posts and other responsibilities from a cavalry regiment. Before the arrival of main body, the advance party already had been involved in minor operation in Buner District. Main Body reached Barikot (Swat) on 29 September and thus took over the operational responsibility in District Swat.

Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj, met and interacted with all the civilian officials of the district. Army Division Malakand Force (MDF) has been organised, with brigades operationally deployed in Swat, Dir, Buner and Chitral. The organisation structure of these brigades is modified to cater the on ground situation. The main battle has already been won through hard fought pitch battles with militants, now focus is on the winning heart and mind, and not allowing militants and miscreants to again pollute the minds and souls of peaceful population of the area. Each regiment is assigned a specific tehsil and area and within the area the commanding officer liaison with the local administration and helps them in maintaining the peace and progress. Moreover the commanding officer also at his own is at liberty to bolster the image of army among locals through his deeds and words.

Batteries were deployed and posts were established at roads and among the high mountains, aim is to keep an eye on any untoward instigation of miscreants. Regimental headquarters were established at Barikot with another at Mingora City. Regiment was also task to manage the military-civilian co-ordination cell. This cell is primarily meant to listen and forward any complaint from the locals regarding their issues and then to ensure that prompt action is undertaken by civil administration.

### **Ilam Mountain Operation- April 2020**

Ilam Mountain range is the highest range in the Swat Valley encompassing both Swat and Buner Districts; infact it also acts as a district boundary. Ilam Mountain has a rich history, it was a most revered place for Buddhists and Hinduism. The range extends in a north-south direction with highest point at 9500 feet. On the east of Ilam is the town of Nawagai and Barikot the famous battle grounds of Alexander the Great Karakar Pass at present links Buner with Swat; although few mountain



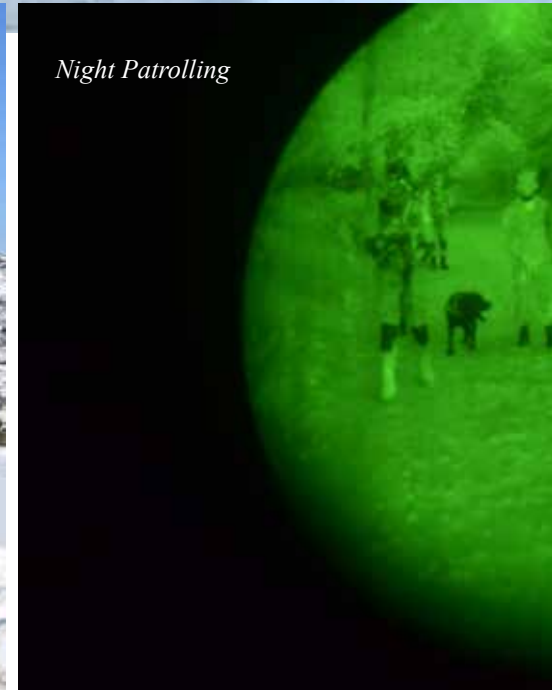
*Athwanja Patrolling*

tracks which are in use since millenniums also provides the accessibility between these two valleys.





*Ilam Village Post*



*Night Patrolling*





*Patrolling in Snow*



*COVID Duties*



The security situation in the area after the military operation that lasted till 2018 had cleared the area from miscreants yet there are always chances of these militants and miscreants returning from their safe havens across the border and misleading general public. To counter such, Athwanja was task to maintain the peace in the area. Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj adopted a simple and bold policy of patrolling extensively in the area. This patrolling had multiple effects, to interact with locals in remote areas, carry food and other good will items for local children and gaining confidence and knowledge of the area, geography, politics, culture etc. Own regiment also raised an integral intelligence platoon and a quick reaction force to gain intelligence and to act swiftly and forcefully. It paid off when in December 2019, a local gave a hint about the possible presence of miscreants in and around Ilam Mountain.

Majority of anti state organisations are personality centred thus if the head is eliminated than the entire organisation is more likely to collapse. Aziz Ur Rehamn is the wanted miscreant in Buner as he spreads hatred against the state and incite people on violence. In the winter of 2019-20, through regimental interrogation, investigation and intelligence it was revealed that wanted miscreant is hatching a plan of violence and his most likely hideout is in the mountains of Ilam range. Commanding Officer after briefing the divisional and corps commanders was given the go ahead to hunt the wanted person and to maintain the writ of state, ensure morale and trust of local population on the organs of state.

The Ilam Mountain is like a bowl, the etymology derives from the main village Ilam, where a police station and a local hospital are also located. Own posts were established on the east and west of this village at high grounds. On the east Joggiano Sar is the highest point and is historically a place

*Tambo Ghat Caves - Ilam Mountains*



of worship for the Hindu community. The local fable also highlight that, snakes in the area when they become bit old always migrate to Joggiano Sar; fables are like this void of rationality. On the west of Ilam village is Halak Sar and the village Kalel Kandao and it takes around seven hours of quick walk to reach from one end (Kalel Kandao-Joggiano Sar). One unique feature of the area is its caves which are spread over the area and are generally camouflage to a new comer. Athwanja had established two posts, one at Jogiano Sar and other at Kalel Kandao with sector headquarters at Ilam Village; Major Raees was the sector commander.

In March 2020, own intelligence apprehended a suspect who later confessed and revealed about the caves around Ilam being used by the key militant wanted leader Aziz ur Rehman and his few followers; Aziz had already gone to Afghanistan for some time. Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj Lone presented a plan to the divisional commander for conduct of excessive and aggressive patrolling by Athwanja in the area; it was approved, the suspect X was also taken along to show the caves. It continued for well over a month in snow and blizzard.

On 16 April 2020, the radio interception of militant did indicated some suspicious movement in the area, thus it was decided to again sweep the area. Three groups were formed, one led by commanding officer, other by Major Raees and third by Major Aurangzeb., each group had two – three patrols comprising of around twenty soldiers. Apart from own troops a platoon of elite police of Buner and few sappers of 5 Engineers were also part of it. The bomb disposal party which leads in front also had sniffer dogs.

The day was foggy, chilly and rainy. All three patrolling groups carried out their task in the prescribed pattern, moving bound to bound, maintaining communication with the other groups. At 1300 hours, the Kalail Kandao patrol, with Subedar Shabbir leading them, cleared the first cave and then the next one which is adjacent to each other, however the third cave is at a relative high ground. The patrol was being led by the Sapper Kamran (5 Engineers) he was clearing the likely improvised explosive device (IED) the most potent weapon in the armoury of militant. OCU Zaheer Abbas of own regiment was behind him followed by policeman Muhammad Hanif

At precisely 1346 hours, Sapper Kamran was hit by a sniper and he felt down, OCU Zaheer Abbas immediately returned fire and also rushed to help the fallen comrade, in this he was also hit; policeman Muhammad Hanif was hit in the thigh. The patrol returned fire and took position and also informed commanding officer regarding the situation. After an hour of sporadic and intense fire exchange, own patrol not only recovered own fallen comrades but also reached the suspected cave and made an entry into it. In the end our two comrades embraced martyrdom and policeman took his last breath while being treated in the hospital at Ilam. Commanding Officer also reached the spot, reinforced the already patrol and vigorously pursued the suspected militants. A sizeable ammunition, weapons and other related material was captured from the cave including weapons snatched from police previously.

On 14 August 2021, OCU Zaheer Abbas Shaheed and Sapper Kamran Riaz Shaheed were decorated with Tamgha-I-Basalat. Police Constable Muhammad Hanif Shaheed was decorated with Tamgha-i-Quaid-i-Azam.



On October 2021, 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment, 94 Light Air Defence Regiment and 37 Azad Kashmir Regiment carried out a joint operation on tri district boundary of Swat, Buner & Shangla and Swat, Buner & Malakand. Operation was conducted after an intelligence report was circulated regarding presence of Terrorist Ahmed Khan at Banjeer (tri district boundary). Operation was conducted by Maj Anas Bin Khalil, Capt Luqman Ismail, Lt Hamza Ali Khan ex 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment & Maj Kashif, Capt Usama ex 87 Medium (SP) Regiment at Banjeer and Major Adil, Lt Zarak ex 87 Medium (SP) Regiment & Capt Shehryar, Lt Mustafa, Lt Hamza ex 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment conducted the Operation at Beshbanr axis under the overall supervision of CO 58 Medium Air Defence Regiment.

On 20 November 2021, Unit was de-inducted from OAM after handing over the AOO to 87 Medium (SP) Artillery Regiment. All packets of the Unit were successfully de-inducted without any hindrance or faults in the vehicles till Sargodha Garrison. GOC 3 AD Div appreciated the Unit for smooth de-induction process and also sent a cake as an appreciation for the well managed and operationally fit MT. It is worth mentioning that Athwanja has been awarded a COAS Commendation Card for MT in June 2022, for 50,000 kilometres of safe driving.

*Lt Col Miraj during a Jirga with elders at Ilan Kallay*







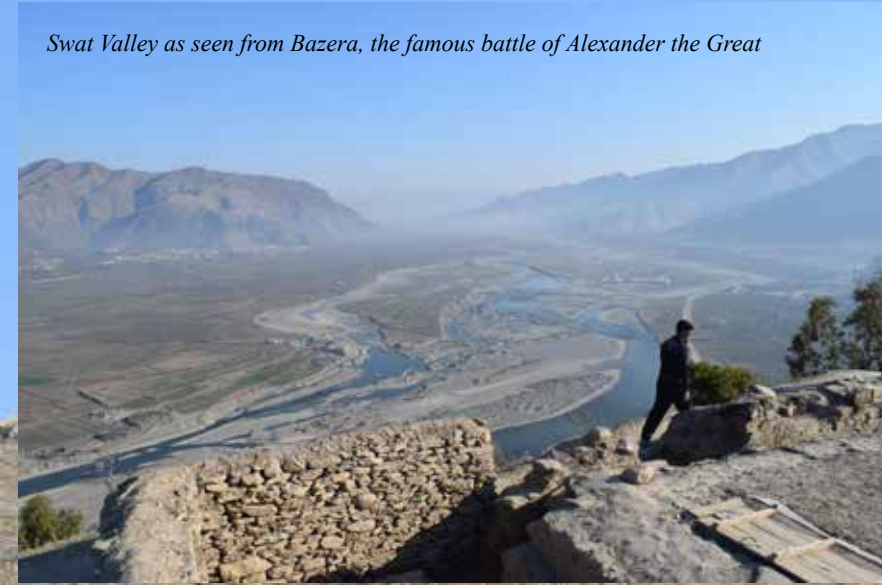
*CO with troops during area domination*



*Defence/Shuhada Day Guard at Malakand with Capt Ali and Lt Lugman*



*Swat Valley as seen from Bazera, the famous battle of Alexander the Great*



*58 Med Air Defence*





*Tree plantation by Athwanja in Swat*





لَهُ وَفَتْحٌ قَرِيبٌ

58 MEDIUM AIR DEFENCE REG  
OP AL - MIZAN (AUG

MARTY



Lt Col Mairaj Alam Lone



ADO - Uzbek Sec



Recovery - Tamboghat



Chinawat



Comd 11 Corp Visit



Ni Operations



Aurangzeb



Asmat



Amjad



Raees



Anas



Noman



Matee Ullah



Zafeer



Ali Akhtar



Aqeel



Bilal



Sharaf Khan



Shehryar



Luqman



Usman



Haseeb



Ahmed



Mustafa



Faisal



Hamza



Zaheer



Kamran

Op Subah-e-Ilam



Swat & Buner  
(2019-2021)

نَصْرٌ مِّنَ اللَّهِ

REGIMENT (FAKHAR-E-BADIN)

2019 - NOV 2021)

YRS

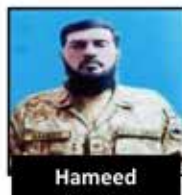


Hanif

(17 Apr 2020)



JCOs



Hameed



Shah Nawaz



Shabbir



Liaquat



Shahbaz



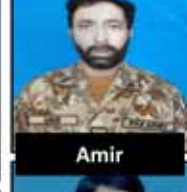
Tariq



Murad



Sattar



Amir



Mehfooz



Asif



Shouqat



Nabi Baksh



Saqib



Sajid



Fazlullah



Joint Training with SSG



Snow Patrol



Burial Guard



Bampokha Mines Rescue Op



Recovery - 14.5 mm (Dir)



## VIII

### **‘Athwanja’ in Sports and Training**

Sports are synonyms with military life and there is a reason, rationale and logic behind this importance to sports. First and foremost is the physical fitness but more important than this is the sense of comradeship, esprit de corps, and a reflection of an individual character through his sports; this is why sports was given a very high priority by the British during their stay at Sub-continent. For the troops, sports provides an outlet and opportunity to show their natural skills, it promotes and fosters the bond between the officers and troops and specially for newly posted young officers it affords an excellent opportunity to interact with his troops.

Although troops were playing sports from the day one of the raising yet it was in July 1966 when regiment took part for the first time in inter regiment sports competition. The organization of the 3 AA Brigade was such that its regiments were deployed at Karachi, Sargodha, Risalpur and Peshawar. Football was held at Sargodha and swimming was held at Risalpur; Athwanja took part in both competitions, naturally whereas football can be played at any field the swimming requires practice in swimming pool and Sargodha had no swimming pool then. The gunners who had a know how of swimming and as overwhelming of them came from rural background thus majority of them knew swimming; the regimental team practiced swimming at nearby canal.

In September 1966, Athwanja took part in basketball tournament at Peshawar. Own regiment had constructed a clay court basketball court at Sargodha; competition was also held on similar court. In October same year the very first inter battery sports competition was held, hockey and athletics were the two main events and both were won by 214 Battery; credit must be given to the Battery Commander Major Jamil Haider. Inter Battery Wrestling competition was also held in November 1966, a week prior to the regiment taking part in the inter regiment wrestling competition. This was a favourite sport of the troops, Sargodha being an agricultural area had certain advantages the most notable being the abundance of fresh milk and butter something bit rare at Karachi and Peshawar. Another feature of this wrestling was the fact that dislocation of joints is a common feature among wrestlers and they prefer to put them back through the folk medicine and doctors; Sargodha is still famous for these pehlwan's doctors. The last sporting event of the first year's of existence was in December when regiment while being at Karachi for aerial firing practice also took part in inter regiment cross-country and athletics championship at Malir Cantonment.

In May 1968, not less than eight second lieutenants were posted in the regiment. This unprecedented strength of young officers boosted the regimental sports teams. Immediate result was that regiment won the inter-regiment basketball championship which was held at Sargodha (15-18 July 1968). Regiment also won the 3 IAABG Boxing championship which was held 28 August-4 September 1968. In December 1968 The Inter Battery Boxing Championship was held on 24- 26 June, in which 163 Battery won.

## Post 1971 Sports

In the Post 1971 War, the regiment had one fundamental change, now instead of three batteries an additional battery (303) which was raised prior to war, made the sports competitions more competitive. The regular sports fixtures started in April 1973, Inter Battery Hockey Championship was held in which 214 Battery came out as winner. In June 1973, Inter Battery Volleyball and Baseball Championships were held both of which were won by 163 Battery. Inter Battery Athletic Championship for the year 1973 was held on 27 and 28 November 1973 at Malir. Papa Battery was declared champion battery for the year 1973/74. Looking back from present, one distinctive feature of that era sports was the fact that almost all soldiers preferred to play sports bare foot. There were no track suits rather the army issued white vests and khaki shorts were the standard dress alongwith canvas shoes. Regiment was declared as the runners-up in the first post war sports championship of the 3 (I) AA Brigade held from 22-27 December 1973. Inter Battery Basketball Championship 1974 was held from 14-26 January 1974. 303 Battery won the championship. Lt Col Syed Walayat Hussain, the commanding officer gave the prize to the teams.



*Wrestling*

**Karachi Zone Boxing Championship** was held from 18-21 February 1974 organized by Ordnance Centre. Athwanja was declared runners up. Following boxers were promoted for their good performance:- Naik Ghulam Hussain (paid havildar), Lance Naik Muhammad Afzal (paid naik), Sepoy Wadi Hussain (local naik), Sepoy Lal Din (local naik). Following boxers were selected to represent the Karachi Zone team in Army Boxing Championship: Havildar Abdul Qayyam, Havildar Ghulam Rasul, Havildar Umaid Ali, Lance Havildar Ghulam Hussain, Havildar Muhammad Ashraf and Lance/Naik Wadi Hussain.

In April 1974, Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Syed Wilayat Shah introduced inter battery competition on quarterly basis rather than on yearly basis. The colour of the banners were decided as: P Bty (Blue), Q Bty (red), R Bty (green), S Bty (yellow) and RHQ Troops (white). In December 1974, in a first of its kind, the boxing championship was held on battery basis rather than regiment. In this Inter Battery Boxing Championship held under arrangements of 103 Composite LAA Regiment, Athwanja won the trophy. Karachi Zone Basketball Championship of 1973-1974 was held from 11-15 March 1975 under 2 Armoured Brigade at Malir Cantt. 58 LAA Regiment won the championship. Following



basketball players of Athwanja also represented Karachi Zone in Inter Zonal Basketball Championship 1974 at Lahore. BQMH Muhammad Safdar (303 Bty), Havildar Muhamamd Anwer (213 Bty), Havildar Amir Hussain (303 Bty), Naik Muhammad Hanif (214 Bty) and Havildar Muhammad Sharif (214 Bty).

**Inter Regiment Hockey** Championship was organized by Athwanja unit from 10-12 June 1975. Major Daud, Captain Humayun Lieutenant Khalil, Lieutenant Mubarik and 2/Lieutenant Nazir participated in this championship; they won the championship. Athwanja also won Inter Zone Hockey Championship held at Sargodha from 7 July 1975-10 July 1975.

In 1977, Regiment won all Inter-Regiment sports championships trophies, In February it won Inter-Unit Athletics, followed by basketball, hockey and volleyball in April, swimming in June and wrestling in July. The supremacy of Athwanja in sports is obvious from the fact that in next two years, before it moved to Qadirabad, it retained basketball, hockey and athletics trophies. Under-22 years sports competitions were inaugurated in 1978 as part of new sports policy of army. Athwanja won Inter-Regiment Basketball and volleyball championships in 1978. Own regiment also won inter regiment drill competition in 1978. Para matches (small arms firing competition) were held on 31 Oct -1 November 1978. Athwanja stood second in Para Match No. 11 and secured first position in Para Match No. 15.

***Naik Gunner Zafar Ullah won two bronze medals in athletics. He won both medals in pole vault, one during Army Athletic Championship and other in Inter Services Athletic Championship 1978. He later represented Pakistan in 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Games held at Bangkok (9-20 December 1978).***

These unprecedented sports laurels were achieved during the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alam Sher Malik and Lieutenant Colonel Hanif Samar. Major Masud Ahmed, 2/Lt Muhammad Farid Ullah Khan, Lt Babar Iqbal, Lt Khalid Hameed Shah, Lt Peraiz Iqbal Kashmiri, Captain Muhammad Anwar Khan, SJ, Captain Ernest Shams, Lt Syed Safdar Ali, Captain Zia-ul-Haq Lt Mubarak Ibrahim Shaikh, Captain Shabbir Ahmed, Captain Asif Jamil, 2/Lt Sohail Bashir, were the officers who in different capacities during this time ; made this dream a reality.

In **winter 1979**, Athwanja moved to Qadirabad and remained there till winter of 1981, the sports achievements were highlighted in the biannual newsletter of the regiment. *The performance of the regiment in 4 AA Brigade inter regiment championship was as under:-Volleyball was organised by the unit on 16 Jan once again the ATHWANJA proved its invincibility and won the championship for third time in a row. Hockey once again we managed to up hold our superiority in the field and won the championship held in March 1981 at Okara, old veteran Naib/Subedar Sharif Ahmed's efforts separated the two teams. Boxing, once again we won boxing at Faisalabad through experienced good old boxers. Basketball the efforts to Lieutenant Saeed, Naib Subedar Sharif, RHM Anwar and strategic planning of Havildar Abid worked well to win the title.*<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Regiment Digest of Service, excerpts from the News Letter.

The said newsletter also highlighted following

*Naib Subedar Abdul Aziz was active member of the unit boxing team and a very good coach, he proceeded on retirement on 05 April 1981. Naib Subedar Muhamamd Afzal an excellent athletic and all round sportsman was released after 16 years of service due to domestic reasons. Naib Subedar Yusef Shah an outstanding hockey player was released from the army after serving 24 years.*

Tennis is an elegant, serene and a pleasurable game which requires stamina, concentration and lot of practice. It can be played by two players or four as doubles. Tennis in the army from early fifties was quite popular and termed as an officers sports. Every garrison used to have a tennis court albeit clay courts or grass courts. The cemented courts were introduced in early eighties. Major Mehboob Haider, Major Zaheer Ud Babar, Major Tahir Qazi and Major Abrar Ul Waheed were regular members of tennis court at Sargodha where Brigadier Altaf Hussain himself a keen tennis player was the commander. Major Mehboob Haider excelled and represented Athwanja in tennis and won many trophies for the regiment. Major Mehboob Haider 'Bob' participated in Inter Brigade Tennis Championship held under 3AA Brigade from 13-16 February 1989 and secured 1<sup>st</sup> position in the championship. Major Mehboob also participated in Zonal Tennis Championship held at Hyderabad under an infantry brigade from 19-22 February 1989 and stood second position. Major Mehboob Haider later participated in Army Tennis Championship held at Lahore from 11-16 March 1989. Tragically after retirement, he lost his life in 2005 earthquake.

## **Champion Regiment (2009-2012)**

58 Med Air Defence Regiment was declared “**Overall Champion**” unit of 4 Air Defence Division for four consecutive years, a feat still unsurpassed. In 2009, Regiment was awarded the ‘ Divisional Efficiency Trophy’ for being the best in training and sports for the year 2008, on 1 July 2009 by the GOC in his darbar. And for next three years Athwanja retained and maintained its standards. Regiment left Malir Cantonment as a Champion Regiment. To be declared as the Champion Regiment, the aspects of training, sports and administration are assessed and given points. Athwanja won all three trophies each year and as such was declared and awarded Champion Trophy The four commanding officers, namely Lieutenant Colonels Muhammad Zahir, Farooq Zaman, Amjad Rasool and Basharat Khan made this feat a reality.

### **Overall Champion Trophy of 4 Air Defence Division**

#### **Best Unit Trophy in Training**

#### **Best Unit Trophy in Sports**

#### **Best Unit Trophy in Administration**

To be the Champion Regiment requires not only muscles but it involves ‘strategic planning’ by the commanding officer. Lieutenant Colonel Farooq Zaman had a board in the regiment in which updates of championship was noted. Own players would ‘infiltrate’ the rival regiments camps by sitting and sipping tea in their canteens and bringing valuable information about the key rival players. Psychological warfare was also played by exaggerating the prowess of own boxers and wrestlers



War on Terror initially did affect the sports culture in one way as the traditional flair of having large crowds, open air and environments were now shrouded in security. On the other hand new sports culture took birth in which martial arts, handling of weapons were now encouraged. **Officers/ JCOs Weapon handling** among regiments of 4 AD Division for the year 2005 was held at Karachi, Captain Mairaj Alam Lone was declared the best in officer category while Subedar Zaffar best among JCO. In 2009 Regiment again won 45 AD Brigade inter unit weapon handling competition, Lance Naik OPM Sajid Nawaz secured 1<sup>st</sup> position in said category.



*Lt Col Amjad receiving 4AD Div Efficiency Trophy from Maj Gen Zamir*



*Lt Col Farooq Zaman receiving 4AD Div Champion Trophy from Maj Gen Shahid*

Athwanja during AD Practice firing (27 October-30 November 2011) was awarded **“Best Medium Air Defence Unit Trophy”** by Lieutenant General, Syed Muhammad Owais, HI (M).

Lieutenant Muhammad Haroon Shahzad Anjum attended YO s (AD)-129 at SAAD ( June 2012) and obtained **“1<sup>st</sup> position”**

**Cycling Championship** as a new sports and training event was introduced to inculcate and revive the culture of cycling. AD Brigade Cycling Championship was held (13-14 October 2009) and unit secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position, Lance Havildar Shahid Mehmood secured 1<sup>st</sup> position. Cricket



*Athwanja celebrating after victory at Malir Cantt*



*Lt Col Basharat celebrating 4AD Div Champion Trophy*

is a popular sport and is followed enthusiastically all over the country by all. However it was seldom played as a competitive sports in army at regimental level. With new millennium and with induction of more educated soldiers, it soon became popular in regiments too. Naik Ahmed Fiaz of 'P Battery' attended Inter - Services Cricket Championship-2009.

**4AD Division SADP** (Specialist Air Defence Platoon). In 2010, a new training event was introduced, the event demands a very high degree of physical fitness, mental endurance, team spirit and above all a professional acumen which has no room for any error. Based upon model of Commando Patrol, the AD Patrol requires small regimental teams to compete in survival and laying an Air Defence ambush. Thus all teams in the initial championship were required to carry SA Missiles, and get deployed on pre-designated locations which were given to teams once they managed to reach the objectives , during the week long competition . later it was amended and reduced to four days, each team operate independently, they are given Grid References and they have to reach the point, where they are given references for next location; it last all night. As is obvious, high standard of map reading, team spirit, mental and physical endurance is required from each member and more from the team leader. Inter unit competition was held from 15-20 March 2010 and Athwanja secured First Position.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Overall Position                                       | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Best SADP Commander (officers) Captain Muhammad Nouman | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Best SADP Section Commander Havildar Muhammad Asif     | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Best SADO firer Naik Tariq Sial                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Best SADP Endurance Lance Havildar Shahid              | 1 <sup>st</sup> |



**Aircraft Recognition Competition.** Another interesting competition and having direct impact on the profession is the ability to recognise aircraft. As we all do remember, there were pictures of aircraft of own and enemy placed in the recreation room. This has been digitalised now. (13-15 June 2012) Athwanja secured “**1<sup>st</sup> Position**” in the said competition and was awarded ‘**Winner Trophy**’ (4 AD Division Inter Unit). The winning team comprised of following:

- Lieutenant Muhammad Amjad Naz (he was declared overall best)
- Naib/Subedar Shah Nawaz
- Naik Abdul Mateen
- OCU Azhar ul Haq
- Havildar Asif Mehmood
- OGM Ghulam Ishaq
- OCU Faheem Shabbir
- OGM Qasim Iqbal

**Athletics.** 4 AD Division Inter-Unit Athletic/X-Country Championship under arrangements of 133 RCG AD Regiment from 17-21 December 2012 and unit scored 1<sup>st</sup> position in Cross Country and 2<sup>nd</sup> position in Athletics. Our team comprised of following.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Captain Muhammad Adeel Ghalib (Team Captain) | • Havildar M. Shahid Mehmood    |
| • Havildar Tariq Sial                          | • Lance Havildar Amir Ali Watto |
| • Lance Havildar Amjad Ali Khan                | • Naik Zainullah                |
| • Naik Ghulam Yaseen                           | • Naik Ghulam Mustafa           |
| • Naik Muhammad Abid                           | • Naik Tanveer Ahmed            |
| • Lance Naik Tariq Mehmood                     | • Lance Naik Abdul Khaliq       |
| • Lance Naik Muhammad Qadir                    | • Lance Naik Khizar Islam       |
| • OPR Jamshed Iqbal                            | • OGM Muhammad Abid             |
| • OGM Muhammad Babar                           | • OGM Arif Ali                  |
| • OGM Waqar Hussain                            | • OGM Abdul Waheed              |
| • OGM Ghulamullah Khan                         | • OGM Muhammad Saleem           |
| • OGM Muhammad Imran                           | • OGM Ghulam Hussain            |
| • OGM Muhammad Ibrahim                         | • DMT Shahid Ali Khan           |
| • Sepoy Adil Islam                             |                                 |

**Volleyball.** 4 AD Division Inter Unit Volleyball Championship (11-16 September 2011) was won by Athwanja: The champion team comprised of following

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Captain Asmat Ullah           | • Havildar Muhammad Ismail    |
| • Lance Havildar Amir Ali Watto | • Lance Havildar Naveed Sajid |
| • Naik Ahmed Fiaz               | • Naik Muhammad Tariq Sial    |
| • Lance Naik Abdul Qadeer khan  | • Lance Naik Zubair Khan      |
| • Lance Naik Muhammad Abuzar    | • OGM Muhammad Asif           |
| • DMT Mudassir Nadeem           | • Ck ‘U’ Adil Islam           |

**Boxing.** Among all sports in army, boxing has a special place. It is the only event in which spectators irrespective of rank are required to attend in uniform. Within the regiment, boxers and wrestlers are given a special place of respect. 4 AD Division Inter Unit Boxing Championship was conducted from 29 January- 3 February 2012. Nine regiments took part and our regiment was runners up.

- Naik Aziz Ahmed Khan
- Lance Naik Zahid Hussian Qurashi
- OGM Muhammad Sajjad
- Havildar Munir Ahmed
- Havildar Muhammad Asif
- Havildar Abdul Sattar
- Naik Ghulam Murtaza
- Naik Ghulam Yasin
- Lance Havildar Allah Ditta
- Naik Allah Bakhsh
- OGM Jibran Naeem
- DSV Awais Khalid
- DMT Shahid Anwar
- Lance Havildar Faryad Ali
- OGM Muhammad Abid
- Naik Muhammad Ajmal
- Lance Naik Barkat Ali Shakir
- DMT Muhammad Sharif
- Lance Naik Tanveer Ahmed
- Lance Naik Ahmed Ali

Lance Havildar Faryad Ali of Athwanja was declared **“Best Boxer”** of the championship and awarded best boxer trophy by GOC 4 AD Division

**Four Dot AD Division Inter Unit Handball Championship 2012.** In March 2012 at Malir Garrison, Athwanja won the championship under Captain Asmat Ullah. GOC 4 AD Division awarded Winner Trophy and a cash prize Rupees 10,000.00. for the team.

- Lieutenant Raees Ahmed
- Havildar Muhammad Shahid Mehmood
- Naik Muhammad Tariq Sial
- Naik Nadeem Tariq
- Naik Zubair Khan
- Cook Adil Islam
- SW Imran Ashraf
- Havildar Muhammad Ismail
- Lance Havildar Amir Ali Watoo
- Naik Shahid Mehmood
- Naik Maqbool Alam
- Lance Naik Abdul Qadeer
- OGM Muhammad Abid
- OGM Ghulam Hussain

Havildar Muhammad Ismail of Athwanja was declared **“Best Goal Keeper”** of the championship and awarded best goal keeper trophy

#### **4 AD Division Taekwondo Championship.**

In June 2012, the inaugural sport and competition was held, own regiment was given the responsibility to arrange and conduct the championship as well. Regiment won the championship, through hardwork and extensive practise. GOC 4 AD Division Major General Saleem Raza presented the Winner Trophy. Our team comprised of following players

- Naik Shahbaz Akram
- OGM Arif Ali
- Naik Murtaza
- Naik Tanveer Ahmed
- OGM Safdar
- DMT Shabir
- Havildar Sajad Anwar
- OGM Waqar Ahmed
- Lance Havildar Allah Ditta
- OGM Hadiat Ullah

**Four Dot, Inter-Unit Small Arms Firing Competition** (16-19 April 2012) was held at Quetta, our Regiment secured second position.



# Athwanja in Training

## Aerial Field Firing







- Captain Asmat ullah
- Havildar Ghulam Muhammad
- Lance Havildar Muhammad Mumtaz
- Lance Naik Muhammad Naseer
- Lance Naik Muammad Ihsan
- DMT Mudassir Siddique
- Naib Subedar Raja Klhalid Masood
- Havildar Waqar Ahmed
- Lance Havildar Naveed Sajid
- Lance Naik Muhammad Javed
- Lance Naik Muhammad Khalid
- DMT Muhammad Sharif

## Zulu' Brigade



*Standing Maj Adeel, Brig Rizwan, Lt Col Javed (Zulu Brigade)*

Zulu Brigade is more than a conventional brigade in terms of manpower and also the fact that apart from AD Regiments , infantry and other arms and services are also part of it. Thus competing and winning in this brigade has a special flair and flavour

Athwanja soon after arrival made his presence felt by winning inter unit Football Championship held from 31 December 2013 - 1 January 2014. **Inter Unit Small Arms Firing** Competition was the next where own regiment was runners-up on 17 January 2014. In December 2015, our Regiment won the Small Arms trophy

**Inter Unit Aircraft Recognition** competition was held on 18 February 2014 and Regiment secured 1<sup>st</sup> position. Captain Muhammad Amjad Naz was adjudged overall First in officers category and Naib Subedar Ghulam Abbas Shah as best in JCO category and OCU Izhar Ul Haq as best in

Soldiers category. **Inter unit Quiz Competition** was held in Brigade auditorium on 25 February 2014 and Athwanja secured 1<sup>st</sup> position.. Major Muhamamd Umar Farooq, Captain Wasi Ullah, Naib Subedar Muhammad Boota and Havildar Asif Mehmood were the team members. In May 2015, Athwanja once again secured 1<sup>st</sup> position, Captain Anas was declared as best in officers category. The competition is not only very exciting but also helps in improving the overall culture of knowing more and more about the aircraft. There are various phases of the competition, there are technical questions about the aircraft apart from recognising the aircraft through the pictures. **Cook House Competition** is another very unique and arguably at no other garrison it is held as in Zulu Brigade. The cleanliness of Cook House, the utensils, the health aspects of cooking all are taken into consideration. Regiment won it twice in succession, in January 2014 and also in 2016 as well.

**Kabbadi** (Circle Style) remains one of the most favourite sporting event of soldiers despite passage of decades. The thrill of soldiers standing with their bodies rubbed with oil, sweat and dust. The advance of the player towards the opponent area, where they are waiting like a team of hunters and amidst all this , to touch an opponent and then to make it safely back to own area by crossing the thin line pumps up the adrenalin of spectators as much as that of players. The beat of Dhol, the comments of the spectators, the nick names of players like Bijli, Shola, Toofan all add colour to military life. Another classic sport is wrestling which also generates an immense interest not only in the regiment but in the entire garrison. Within the regiment a good wrestler is popularly known as ‘Kushtar’ and there is a unique way of walk which also depicts that he is a wrestler. **Inter Unit wrestling** championship was held on 28-30 January 2014 , Athwanja secured 1<sup>st</sup> position and our Regiment won it back to back in January 2015 too. Havildar Asif Imran, Naik Abdul Khali, DMT Abdul Sattar, Lance Naiks Noman Ihsan, Kaleem ullah and OGM Shahbaz Ahmed of Athwanja were selected in the Zulu Brigade Kabbadi Team. **Athwanja** won the most coveted trophy of **Inter Unit Boxing Championship** in August 2015 and again won it in November 2017.

Inter unit **Swimming Championship** was conducted on 24 September 2014 and Athwanja secured 1<sup>st</sup> position. Inter Unit **Volleyball Championship** 2014, our **Athwanja** was the Champion and it again won the Volley Ball trophy in February 2016 as well. Field Hockey the national game of Pakistan was revived after a prolong gap by Zulu Brigade, Athwanja won the Inter Unit trophy on 8 February 2017

### **Martial Arts Champion**

Martial Arts competition was introduced quite recently in Pakistan Army but hats off to the Athwanja that it won almost all such championships held in Zulu Brigade. Inter Unit Taekwondo Championship held on 6-7 November was won by our Regiment followed by Inter Unit Judo Competition held on 2-3 July 2016 and the Inter Unit Wushu Championship 2016 held on 31 October- 2 November 2016.

Zulu Brigade inter Unit PACES (Physical Agility and Combat Efficiency System (PACES) another new competition in which our regiment was taking part and so were the other regiments of the brigade. Competition was held from 22-24 November 2017 and Athwanja secured 1<sup>st</sup> Position. Regiment also won the Military Transport Competition which was held on 4-5 December 2017.



Aesthetics of Athwanja, regiment won the Inter Unit Flower Competition in Spring 2017 and highlighted the fact that Athwanja is not only muscles and brain but it also have aesthetics.

**Hifz-o-Qirat Competition.** AAD Command Hifz-o-Qirat competition was held on 16 April 2015 and OCU Hafiz Zaheer Abbas secured 1<sup>st</sup> position. In **Army level Hifz-o- Qiraat competition.** held on 24 April 2015 at HQ 10 Corps, OCU Hafiz Zaheer Abbas was declared the best Qari of Pakistan Army. Hafiz Shahid Iqbal of Athwanja is also a renowned Qari, he has won many competitions, he has the honour of reciting Qirat on Pakistan Day Parade in 2019.



**Athwanja won following Trophies on 26 July 2017:**

Champion Unit Trophy of Zulu Brigade

Best in Operations Trophy

Best in Sports Trophy



*Athwanja's Quick Reaction Force under Captain Anas was declared the best in Zulu Brigade*

## IX

### Raising Days and Reunions

Raising day of the regiment is the most joyful day in the calendar year, and in last fifty odd years it has been observed in different manners depending upon the circumstances. In most of the cases, a special darbar or a bara khanna is the hallmark. Special durbar on account of celebrant of the unit raising day was held on 06 Jan 1977 at 0800 hrs. After recitation from Holy Quran, Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Alam Sher Malik) addressed all ranks of the unit, brief History of the regt was read out and at the end prizes to sub-units were distributed. It had rained early in the morning at Sargodha, among the officers Captain Baksh and Captain Anwar SJ alongwith 2/Lieutenant Wazir Butt were present.



*OGM Rizwan the youngest Soldier cutting the cake. Lt Col Ahsan Saleem*

Celebration of 16th Raising Day. The day was celebrated at Qadirabad on 6th January 1981, (Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Jamil was the commanding officer) with great enthusiasm. Serving and retired officers, JCOs and ORs of the unit not present with the unit were also invited. Brig Asif Mahmud Ahmad Qureshi Commander 4 AA Brigade was the Chief Guest.

A newsletter was also published, the first and perhaps the last till todote. It gives an interesting narrative of the regiment at Qadirabad. 'The news letter with you is our first humble stride in this direction it will not be out on place to mention bare that being a maiden venture, it is likely to have many short comings and pitfalls. Any suggestions / advice from you to improve the future issue will be most welcome and highly appreciated.' As the events moved , this practice could not be continued, however an excerpts from the inaugural newsletter are reproduced.



Newsletter gave a brief history of the regiment, its war performance and also highlighted that following officers who have served in the regiment have risen to higher ranks

The regiment is proud of the following officers who has served in the unit and have risen to the rank

- Brigadier AKM Shamsul Alam
- Brigadier Muhammad Rashid Baig  
(he later retired as major general)
- Brigadier Muhammad Aziz Ahmed Khan
- Colonel Altaf Hussain (retired as brigadier)

#### Present With The Regiment

- Lieutenant Colonel M. Jamil, psc, g+
- Major Muhammad Riaz Malik, psc, g+
- Major Sajid Ahmed g+
- Captain Muhammad Saleem Malik
- Captain Iftikhar Ahmed
- Captain S Qaiser Mehdi
- Lieutenant Sohail Bashir
- 2/Lieutenant Khalid Mahmood Raja
- Major Nazir Ahmed Mughal Isc
- Major Majid Hussain, g+
- Captain Asad Ullah Jan
- Captain Syed Mushtaq Ali
- Captain Muhammad Pervez Akbar
- Lieutenant Fahim-ur-Rahim Khan
- Lieutenant Zulfqar Hussain
- 2/Lieutenant Tariq Mahmood Butt

Newsletter also penned few lines about the regimental officers at that time which is being reproduced. Major Muhammad Riaz Malik psc, g+ on 31 January 1981 from HQ AA Command but avoided regimental soldering till first week of April through an act of sailing, law course and marginal leave scale. Major Muhammad Sarwar psc, g+. A fresh out from Iqra joined on 24 January and immediately started applying his operational planning qualities which he learnt during the year, in command of his battery. Captain Sajjad Ahmed, g+ posted from the School of AA Artillery on 10 January found a big change from an ustad to a regimental soldier. Captain Muhammad Pervez Akbar a veteran field gunner from 9 Medium Regiment Artillery joined in April and he along with his batman have relished the food part. Captain Syed Qaiser Mehdi SSG addition in May, who better quickly get out of his gorilla mood and learn some gunnery before his marriage.

Junior Commissioned Officers present with the unit.

Subedar Major Muhammad Sharif

- Subedar Muhammad Khan
- Subedar Amir Khan
- Naib Subedar Malik Khan
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Shah
- Naib Subedar Khushi Muhammad
- Naib Subedar Fazal Hussain
- Khateeb Taj ud Din Azhar
- Naib Subedar Sharif Ahmed
- Subedar Nazir Ahmed
- Naib Subedar Ghulam Rasul
- Naib Subedar Ellahi Bakhsh
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Nasir
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Ashraf
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Taj
- Naib Subedar Shah Alam Khan (Education JCO)

Sargodha. On 6th January 1985, Raising Day was celebrated at Sargodha, in the morning special darbar by Lieutenant Colonel Umar Hayat and in the evening a musical programme for the soldiers was arranged at the gun park sheds of the brigade ( the present day army Public School)

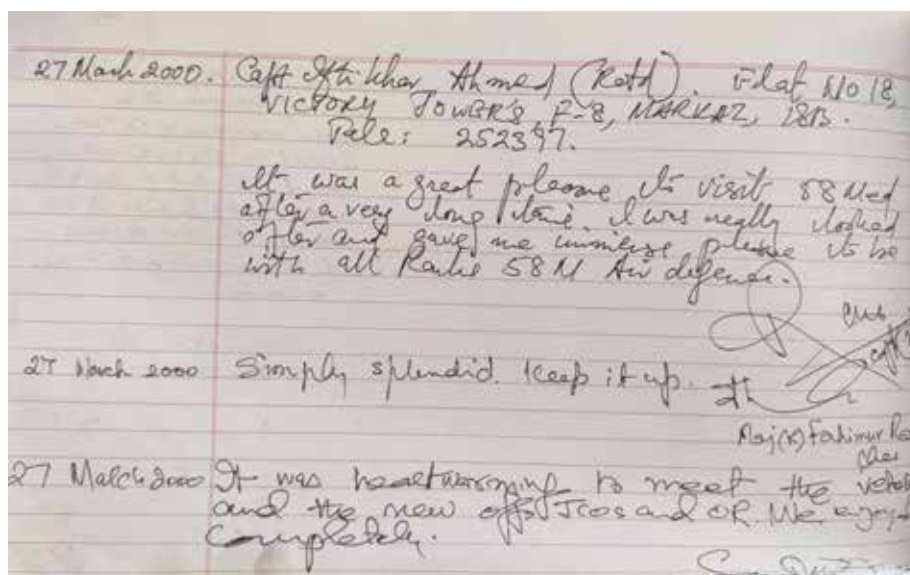
Silver Jubilee. Athwanja celebrated Silver Jubilee on 6 January 1991 at Kilo Area, with Lieutenant Colonel Nasrullah Khan as commanding officer. The occasion was graced by the ex- commanding officers proposed Brigadier (retired) Altaf Hussain as Colonel of the Regiment.



**Sitting Left to Right:** Lt Col Ashraf Saleem, Lt Col Tahir Qazi, Maj Furqan, Lt Col Khalid, Lt Col (R) Iqbal, Lt Col Ali bin Ahmad, Brig Sarwar, Brig Ayub, Lt Col Javed Anwar, Maj (R) Khattak, **Standing:** Capt Hafeez, Capt Shoib, Maj Taimoor, Capt Tahir, Maj (R) Faheem, Maj (R) Hamayun, Maj Faridullah, Maj Waqas, Capt Waseem, Maj Tahir, Lt Basharat, Lt Marghoob

Karachi, in February 1995 a Re-union off all officers who belonged to “Athwanja” took place and many old officers attended the re-union. Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hameed Shah was the commanding officer. ‘It was not a reunion in the classic and traditional sense, rather the officers had come to Army Air Defence reunion and as such, I invited all the retired officers of Athwanja for a cup of tea at the main mess, there were no photographs taken on the occasion.’

34 Raising Day. Was celebrated on 25 March 2000 with great enthusiasm with Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Mehmood Khan as the commanding officer. Athwanja was stationed at Lahore. Serving and retired offers JCOs and ORs of the unit participated in the raising day. Lt Col Muhammad Iqbal 2<sup>nd</sup> CO of the unit was chief guest. It was a two days event.



Following serving and retired Officers, JCOs and ORs participated in the raising day celebration:-

- Brigadier Altaf Hassain
- Brigadier Sajjad Ayub
- Colonel Muhammad Pervaiz Akbar
- Lieutenant Colonel Ghulam Ali Mughal



- Lieutenant Colonel Hammad Raza Bashir
- Lieutenant Colonel Nayyer Hameed Qureshi
- Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Bakhsh
- Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Hameed Shah
- Lieutenant Colonel Muhamamd Iqbal
- Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema
- Major Taimoor ul Mahood
- Major Zakir Hanif Alvi
- Major Shafqat Hussain Raza
- Major Tariq Mahmood
- Major Nadeem ur Rehman
- Captain Imran
- Subedar Major Ellahi Bakhsh
- Subedar Muhammad Taj Anwar
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Younis
- Naib Subedar Mehboob Sultan
- Naib Subedar Mushtaq Hussain
- Havildar Muhammad Qasim
- Havildar Talib Hussain-TJ
- Lance Naik Muhammad Qasim
- Lance Naik Muhammad Akram
- Lieutenant Colonel Jarar Ahmed Burki
- Lieutenant Colonel Razi Hayder Abbas
- Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Ilyas
- Lieutenant Colonel H.M Hashmi
- Major Abid Javed Akhtar
- Major Amanat Javed
- Major Saeed Wazir Butt
- Major Babar Iqbal
- Major Zulfaqur Hussain
- Major Fahim ur Rahim Khan
- Captain Iftikhar Rana
- Captain Amjad latif
- Subedar Major Khushi Mahmood
- Subedar Muhammad Sarwar
- Naib Subedar Gulam Ahmed
- Naib Subedar Muhammad Anwar Khan
- Havildar Adbul Rauf
- Havildar Muhammad Aslam
- Naik Clerk Talib Hussain
- Lance Naik Noor Khan
- Clerk Nazir Khan

It was a two day event, on the second day, a tug of War and volleyball match was played between the serving and retired personal of the Athwanja. Retired officers were invited to the stage to introduce themselves and deliver a talk encompassing activates in their times. Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas gave a talk in Punjabi with his trademark couplets. Brigadier Sarwar in his cool and calm manners recollected his tenure of command and narrated how his adjutant who happens to be the namesake of his son survived his wrath just because of this fact ‘ My adjutant was naughty in good sense, and I would overlook majority of his acts because I would find not much of difference in him and my five years old son Aamir.’ All retired officers, junior commissioned officers and other ranks were presented with a shield when they departed at about 1300 hours

Celebration of 36<sup>th</sup> Raising Day. Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Mehmood Baloch again celebrated raising day on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2002 at operational area ‘Zulu’ with great enthusiasm. Serving and retired officers, JCO, and OR, of the unit were cordially invited and they whole heartedly participated in the raising day. Major General (R) Muhammad Rashid Beg was the chief guest. ‘My basic philosophy was that such events provide a good relief to the regiment from the routine work, it foster bondage among the serving and retired officers and other ranks. Although being in operational area it was quite hectic , yet credit goes to the officers and men of Athwanja for making this event memorable .’ recalls Lieutenant Colonel(retired) Zafar Baloch. The entire event which due to the limitation of the operational area was restricted to a one day event, was meticulously planned and executed.



*Tug of War at Lahore Reunion*

Following serving and retired officers participated in the raising day celebration:-

- Brigadier (R) Altaf Hussain
- Lieutenant Colonel (R) Khalid Hameed Shah
- Lieutenant Colonel (R) Adil Akhtar
- Lieutenant Colonel Javed Riaz Ahmed Khan
- Major Muhammad Saleem Malik
- Major Mahboob Haider
- Lieutenant Colonel (R) Amir Afzal Khan
- Lieutenant Colonel (R) Asaf Jamil
- Lieutenant Colonel (R) Muhammad Iqbal
- Lieutenant Colonel Zia Masood Ahmed Toor
- Major Fahim ur Rahim Khan
- Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema

## **Karachi - 46<sup>th</sup> Raising Day**

46<sup>th</sup> Raising day of the unit was celebrated on 7 July 2012 with high spirits, it was the first major raising day celebration in Karachi. Lieutenant Colonel H.M.Hashmi who commanded the Athwanja during 1971 War was also present. The present Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Amjad Rasool made the event very interesting and interactive. Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier Muhammad Pervaz Akbar, SI (M) was also present. Rank wearing ceremony on promotion to the rank of Colonel of Muhammad Tahir KK (Parental officer of the unit) was one of the major event. It always brings happiness and smile to see the officers who joins regiment as subalterns and then pass through the regimental life to rise high in army life. The officers also fully understand the support they have received from the regiment in the progress of their career. The commanding officer in his welcome speech highlighted the regimental history and also updated the pioneers and veterans on the present; he mentioned that Athwanja is the Champion Regiment of the AD Division. Lieutenant Colonel retired Hashmi in his speech, confessed that it has been after some time that he has laughed so much and feels younger again. Major retired Mussarat Khalique who had served as a lieutenant during the 1971 War also shared his feelings. Among the serving officers of the Athwanja,

Colonel Asim Ali, Colonel Tahir, Lieutenant Colonel Raheel Aslam, Lieutenant Colonel Bashrat Ali Khan, Major Amir Shahzad, were present. 2/Lieutenant Muhammad Annas bin Khalil was the master of Ceremony. Unit used VPs for display of pictures and data along with live coverage being shown on screen during ceremony for the first time in Malir Cantonment. AAD Centre troupe team and 4 Sind Band team made the evening a very enjoyable affair. A beautiful 'key chain and wallet' made for the ceremony was presented to all the guests.





Rank wearing Ceremony of Col Bahsarat, Lt Col Shafaq, Lt Col Kamran

|            |                                  |   |   |
|------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 6 Jan 2002 | Lt Col (R) Mohammed IGBAL        | 498 Chakula Scheme III<br>Street 17, Rawalpindi Cantt | Highly impressed to see<br>the performance of the unit<br>Hail to always with<br>"Ameen".                     |
| 6 Jun 2002 | Lt Col (Retd)<br>ADIL AKHTAR, TM | 34-d Askari-4<br>Rasp Cantt, Rawalpindi               | Nostalgic feeling<br>revived, Felt very<br>happy. Allah bless you<br>all.                                     |
| 6 Jan 2002 | Lt Col (Retd)<br>Asaf Jamil      | 50-c Askari VII<br>Adiala Road Rasp<br>Tel 5563870    | Very nice to see my<br>parent unit in<br>such safe hands<br>and in such a good<br>condition.<br>Best of luck. |

|            | NAME                             | ADDRESS  | REMARKS   |
|------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 6 Jan 2001 | Lt Col (R)<br>Khalid Hameed Shah | 5B, Askari IV,<br>National Park Road,<br>Rawalpindi Cantt. | It was a<br>pleasure to visit<br>Adiala on its<br>35th raising day.<br>It is heartening<br>to see unit in<br>a very good shape.<br><br>I wish for a<br>prosperous future &<br>high growth.<br><br>Allah be with you<br>Zaid |

Variety Programme, Sargodha 2019







**Sitting Left to Right:** M. Hashim Father of Capt Yahya, Shaheed, Lt Col (R) Taseer Kazmi, Maj (R) Akbar Father in Law of Brig Farooq Zaman, Brig Farooq Zaman, Brig (R) Pervez Akbar, Lt Col (R) Javed, Lt Col (R) Ilyas, Lt Col (R) Khalid Hameed, Lt Col (R) Zafar Baloch, Standing Middle Row, Sons of (Late) Col Zahir Shaheed, Col Basharat, Col Tahir Akbar; Capt Raees, Capt Wasiullah, 2/Lt Ali, Lt Mattee, Capt Jahanziab, N/Sub Asif, N/Sub Ghaffar. Last Row: N/Sub Liaquat, Sub Aslam, N/Sub Masood, Nk Zafar, N/Sub Sattar, Sub Boota, SM Ahsan, Hav Rasheed, Hav Shehbaz, Hav Nabi Baksh



Sargodha 2019



Lt Col (R) Ilyas  
Hon Lt (R) Rehmat



Lt Col (R) Hashmi





*Brig Pervez Akbar putting on ranks to Brig Basharat Ali Khan*



*Brig Aleem putting on ranks to Brig Javed*





## *Rank Wearing Ceremonies*

Rank Wearing Ceremonies are a strong tradition rather a ritual in Athwanja, it is so nostalgic and prideful experience for all, not only the officer but his entire extended family of Athwanja including barber, tailor and canteen contractor rejoices in his promotion. An officer of Athwanja always comes to home to put on the next rank.



Lieutenant Colonel Hashmi also gave the trophies to the regimental AD Batteries. R Battery was declared overall Champion Battery of the Athwanja and Major Muhammad Shafaq Naveed, battery commander received the Champion Trophy.

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Best in Sports         | R Battery |
| Best in Training       | P Battery |
| Best in Administration | Q Battery |

## **Sargodha – 2018**

In January 2018, raising day, re-union and Colonel of the Regiment installation ceremony were held. Brigadier Farooq Zaman a parental officer of the regiment who also commanded it was installed as the new officers among the retired officers including Brigadier Aleem, Lieutenant Colonel Zafar Baloch, Major Abid, Major Aamir Cheema, attended the event and among the serving officer Lieutenant Colonel Javed (now brigadier) were present. Guests were accommodated in the Officers Mess, luckily Athwanja was also looking after the mess thus it eased the administrative aspect, retired sardar sahiban and other ranks were accommodated in the renovated guest rooms of the regiment. Outgoing Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier Pervaiz Akbar and Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem Hayat the commanding officer put the ranks to Brigadier Farooq Zaman. It was a very well planned, organized and a lively event.

Sargodha in all these years has almost become as modern as any other city of Pakistan, the radio-cab like Careem was recently introduced in the city thus it gives freedom of movement to the retired officers and takes away the unnecessary stress of official vehicle on road.

On the first day a dinner or bara khanna was arranged in which the retired and serving officers and troops interacted; which is always the primary aim of such gatherings. For many retired officers this was their first visit to Sargodha after retirement thus everything looked new, naturally the layout of the garrison has undergone positive transition in all these passing years. A very entertaining variety programme was put up by the soldiers of the regiment. The beauty, charm, wit and humour which own soldiers expresses at such gathering can not be matched even by the best of professional musicians or artists. The humour in uniform can only be understood and grasp by those who have been part of this wonderful regiment and army life. As usual the JQ, BQMH, are the main source of soldiers witty humour. A variety programme by itself reflects the morale of the regiment and it was obvious that regiment is having a very harmonious, professional and cultured life pattern. In the Bara Khanna, the taste and joy of 'zarda' which has always remained a speciality of own soldiers cooks was savoured by all.



Next morning, the installation ceremony was arranged in the hall, first the commanding officer gave a welcome speech, it must be highlighted that he is a second generation Athwanja as his father Captain Muhammad Saleem also served in the regiment and was promoted to major while serving here back in 1986. Brigadier retired Pervaiz Akbar the outgoing colonel of the regiment, in his farewell speech highlighted the activities of his tenure. Brigadier retired Pervaiz Akbar served in this regiment as a captain at Qadirabad and also as a major at Kilo area and later commanded the regiment as well. His younger brother Tahir Akbar was commissioned in this regiment in 1985 and served as a battery commander too before he retired as lieutenant colonel. Brigadier Farooq Zaman as stated before is a parental officer, he was serving as military attaché at Kabul and had specifically came all the way from Kabul for this ceremony. He thanked Athwanja ‘What ever I have achieved in my life is all due to the regiment, I am proud of being a son of this regiment.’ Brigadier Farooq Zaman later donated half a million rupees to the welfare of troops and presented the cheque to the SM Abid.

Later in the hall, retired soldiers were asked to express their views on the life they spend in the regiment. Havildar retired Zulfiqar Ahmed a driver by trade who joined the regiment as a recruit in 1980 and later served in SSG as well, gave an emotional short speech about his affiliation with the regiment and how he misses the good old days and how he even now still dreams of being on parade every morning.



**1st Row Left to Right:** Maj Aurangzeb, Sub Shabir, Brig Farooq Zaman (Col of The Regt), Lt Col Mairaj Alam Lone, Maj M Annas  
**2nd Row Left to Right:** Lt Ahmed, Sub Liaqat, Capt Shehryar, Capt Aqeel, Nk Aziz, BQMH Mumtaz, N/Sub Asif  
**3rd Row Left to Right:** L/Nk Nazir, N/Sub Tariq, Sub Shahbaz, Lt Luqman, N/Sub Saqib, BHM Ihsan, RQMH Mateen  
**4th Row Left to Right:** Hav Waheed, RHM Shahid, Hav Rasheed





X

## Honour, Awards, Shaheed

### Tamgha-i-Jurat (1971 War)

Havildar/ Gunner Talib Hussain, Havildar/ Gunner Muhammad Idris, Mujahid Langer Khan

### Sitara-I-Basalat – 23 March 2006

Captain Yahya Jan, Shaheed

**Tamgha –e-Basalat- 23 March 1995**, Captain Waseem Yaqoob , Havildar Khushi Muhammad

**Tamgha-e-Basalat 14 August 2021**, OCU Zaheer Abbas Shaheed, Sapper Kamran Riaz Shaheed

### Imtiaz Sanad (1971 War)

Lieutenant Colonel Habib Muhammad Hashmi, Captain Mushtaq Ahmed, Naib Subedar Mir Baz

## COAS Commendation Card

|   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| • Sub Ghulam Shabbir                                | : | 14 August 2014<br>& 23 March 2021. |
| • N/Sub Shoukat Hussain                             | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • N/Sub Muhammad Asif                               | : | 14 August 2018.                    |
| • N/Sub Saqib Hussain                               | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • N/Sub Clk Tariq Hussain                           | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • N/Sub Adnan Ashraf                                | : | 14 August 2020.                    |
| • OPR Aurangzeb                                     | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • Havildar Clk Zia Ur Rehman                        | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • Havildar OCU Zain Ullah Khan                      | : | 23 March 2021.                     |
| • Havildar OPR Sajjad Anwar                         | : | 23 March 2018.                     |
| • Havildar OCU Shoaib Tariq                         | : | 23 March 2018.                     |
| • Havildar OPR Tariq Sial                           | : | 14 August 2017.                    |
| Havildar ( RHM) Sardar Ali, TK (Mil) CI-III         | : | 14 August 1976.                    |
| Havildar (OCU) Farman Ali, TK (Mil) CI-III          | : | 14 August 1976.                    |
| Havildar (BHM Feroze) Khan, TK-III (Mil)            | : | 14 August 1977.                    |
| Lance Naik Muhammad Ashraf, TK (Mil) CI-III         | : | 23 March 1988.                     |
| Subedar Major Amir Khan, TK (Mil) CI-II             | : | 14 August 1988.                    |
| Havildar Aziz Rehman, TK (Mil) CI-III               | : | 14 August 1988.                    |
| Subedar Major Amir Khan, TK (Mil) CI-II             | : | 14 March 1988.                     |
| Subedar Major Amir Khan, TK (Mil) CI-II             | : | 14 August 1988.                    |
| Naik Muhammad Azram, TK (Mil) CI-III                | : | 23 March 1989                      |
| Lance Naik Mehboob Asghar, TK (Mil) CI-III          | : | 23 March 1989                      |
| Lance Naik Muhamamd Ilyas, TK (Mil) CI-III          | : | 23 March 1989                      |
| Havildart Ghulam Sabbir, TK (Mil) CI-III            | : | 14 August 1989                     |
| Lance Naik Muhammad Rafique, Tk (Mil) CI-III        | : | 14 August 1989                     |
| Havildar Muhamad Afzal, TK (Mil) CI-III             | : | 23 March 1990.                     |
| Subedar Major Amir Khan, TK (Mil) CI-I              | : | 23 March r 1991.                   |
| Havildar Ikhtiar Muhammad, TK(Mil) CI-III           | : | 23 March 1992.                     |
| Lance Naik Fazal Din, TK (Mil) CI-III               | : | 29 March 1994.                     |
| Subedar Major Honorary Lieutenant Rehmat Ali, TK-II |   |                                    |
| Lt Col Ahsan Saleem                                 | : | 23 March 2020                      |



## **Departed Comrades of Athwanja**

- Gunner Ahmad Khan died on 23 July 1967, Gun over-ran him
- Havildar Muhammad Sarwar died in an MT accident on 7 May 1968. He was over run by vehicle of 5 LAA Regt Artly
- Havildar Ahmed Khan died at PAF Hospital Sargodha on 08 July 1975.
- Lance Havildar Bagh Ali murdered at home on 27 Sep 1975 while on Leave.
- Lieutenant Nazir Ahmed died at 1015 hrs on 02 Apr 1977 at Zahidan Chawk Karachi due to vehicle accident.
- Gunner Muhammad Basharat died on 21 Oct 1980 while on C/L at home.
- Cook (U) Mehdi Khan died on 06 February 1980. CMH Jhelum.
- Gunner Rab Nawaz died of sudden death on 11 August 1981
- Gunner Sajjid Ahmed died in MH Rawalpindi on 20 July 1982.
- OCU Mushtaq Ahmed died in CMH Rawalpindi on 20 September 1982.

Died due to MT accident at Muzaffargarh Ranges on 25 May 1984:-

- a. Naib Subedar Muhammad Anwar
  - b. Naik Ghulam Rasul
  - c. DMT Jamil Ahmed
  - d. Gunner Sajid Mahammad
- DMT Khurshid expired in CMH Sargodha 13 June 1986.
  - Lance Naik Muhammad Mumtaz died on 17 November 1988.
  - Gunner Ashiq murdered at home in 1998 during leave.
  - Naik Ansar died at home during road accident in Oct 2010 during leave.
  - Havildar Muhammad Saleem died in road accident on 6 April 2016.
  - Naik Arsalan Gul Bahar died in CMH Rwp on 4 Mar 2021 after receiving bullet injury during leave at home.
  - Havildar Muhammad Saleem died in road accident on 6 April 2016.

## **Shaheeds**

- Captain Yahya Jan Shaheed Sitara-e-Basalat, 13 October 2001 Tochi Scouts Hassu Khel bridge.
- Operator Communication Unit Zaheer Abbas Shaheed Tamgha-i-Basalat, 17 April 2021 Operational Area, Buner.
- Sapper Muhammad Kamran Riaz (5 Engrs Bn) Shaheed Tamgha-i-Basalat, 17 April 2021 Operational Area, Buner.

| HONOUR BOARD |      |                       |           |            |     |                                      |
|--------------|------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| SER          | RANK | NAME                  | COURSE    | YEAR       | GRD | POSN                                 |
| 1            | HAV  | MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ       | ARI       | 1981 (AY+) | 1st |                                      |
| 2            | LT   | MEHMOOD UL ISLAM      | ASPT-174  | 1985 -     | 1st |                                      |
| 3            | HAV  | IKHTIAR MUHAMMAD      | ARKMAA-33 | 1986 -     | 1st |                                      |
| 4            | CAPT | TARIQ MEHMOOD         | SIG CADRE | 1990 -     | 1st |                                      |
| 5            | CAPT | MUHAMMAD JAVED        | OMT-128   | 1991 AY+   | 2ND |                                      |
| 6            | 2/LT | FAROOQ ZAMAN          | YO-5 (AD) | 1991 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 7            | LT   | FAROOQ ZAMAN          | OW        | 1992 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 8            | CAPT | ASIM ALI              | MCC/JSC-6 | 1994 -     | 2ND |                                      |
| 9            | CAPT | FAROOQ ZAMAN          | JSC(AD)   | 1996 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 10           | CAPT | FAROOQ ZAMAN          | MCC(AD)   | 1996 A     | 2ND |                                      |
| 11           | LT   | JAVED IQBAL           | YO-5(AD)  | 1997 A     | 2ND |                                      |
| 12           | CAPT | BASHARAT ALI KHAN     | CRPV-21   | 1998 A     | 2ND |                                      |
| 13           | MAJ  | FAROOQ ZAMAN          | ADSC(AD)  | 1999 AY+   | 1st |                                      |
| 14           | CAPT | BASHARAT ALI KHAN     | JSC(AD)   | 2000 B+    | 1st |                                      |
| 15           | CAPT | BASHARAT ALI KHAN     | MCC-18    | 2000 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 16           | CAPT | MUHAMMAD MAIRAJ KHAN  | JSC(AD)   | 2004 B+    | 2ND |                                      |
| 17           | CAPT | AHSAN SALEEM MALIK    | OMT-165   | 2004 A     | 2ND |                                      |
| 18           | HAV  | GHULAM ABBAS          | FCEIC-8   | 2006 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 19           | L/NK | MUHAMMAD AMIN         | BLC-12    | 2007 B+    | 2ND |                                      |
| 20           | L/NK | MUHAMMAD HAYAT        | BLC-14    | 2008 A     | 2ND |                                      |
| 21           | LT   | MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB | UCBC      | 2008       | 2ND | YELLOW BELT                          |
| 22           | GNR  | TAWANGAR ABBAS        | UCBC      | 2008       | 1st |                                      |
| 23           | GNR  | MAIRAJ UD DIN         | UCBC      | 2009       | 1st |                                      |
| 24           | OPM  | GHULAM MUHAMMAD       | SMI CADRE | 2009 -     | 2ND |                                      |
| 25           | HAV  | RIAZ AHMED SADDIQUE   | SIG CADRE | 2009 B+    | 2ND |                                      |
| 26           | HAV  | ABDUL RASHEED         | SIG CADRE | 2009 A     | 1st |                                      |
| 27           | NK   | ADNAN ASHRAF          | BPT-135   | 2009 A     |     | BROKE ALL TIME RECORD IN ASLT COURSE |

| HONOUR BOARD |      |                           |                      |      |      |          |
|--------------|------|---------------------------|----------------------|------|------|----------|
| SER          | RANK | NAME                      | COURSE               | YEAR | GRD  | POSN     |
| 1            | GNR  | MUHAMMAD ABU ZAR          | BCC                  | 2010 | A    | 1st      |
| 2            | NK   | MUHAMMAD TARIQ SIAL       | BPT A-PT ASLT COURSE | 2010 | A    |          |
| 3            | L/NK | WAHEED IMRAN              | BCC                  | 2010 | A    | 1st      |
| 4            | HAV  | ABDUL RASHEED             | OAS/JNC-85           | 2010 | Ax2  | 1st      |
| 5            | LT   | MUHAMMAD AMJAD NAZ        | YO-5 126             | 2010 | A    | 2ND      |
| 6            | L/NK | AJMAL HUSSAIN             | BCC                  | 2010 | A    | 1st      |
| 7            | L/NK | MUSTAFA                   | BCC                  | 2010 | A    | 1st      |
| 8            | L/NK | ZAIN ULLAH                | //                   | 2010 | A    | 1st      |
| 9            | CAPT | SARMAD                    | OMT                  | 2010 | Ax   | 1st      |
| 10           | LT   | MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB     | OW                   | 2010 | B+Y1 | 2ND      |
| 11           | L/NK | ZAHEER ABBAS              | BCC                  | 2011 | A    | 1st      |
| 12           | OCU  | ASAD ABBAS                | BCC                  | 2012 | A    | 1st      |
| 13           | LT   | M HAROON SHAHZAD          | YO-5-129             | 2012 | A    | 1st      |
| 14           | OCU  | IZHAR UL HAQ              | BCC                  | 2012 | A    | 1st      |
| 15           | LT   | MUHAMMAD ANNAS BIN KHALIL | AIC-15               | 2013 | A    | 19th 7.6 |
| 16           | OCU  | IRSHAD HUSSAIN            | BCC                  | 2013 | A    | 1st      |
| 17           | L/NK | NOUMAN EHSAN              | UAC + SD-10          | 2013 | A    | 1st      |
| 18           | NK   | HASSAN ABBAS              | LIC-13               | 2013 | A    | 1st      |
| 19           | L/NK | NOUMAN                    | LIC-15               | "    | "    | "        |
| 20           | OGM  | MUHAMMAD BABAR            | BCC-5                | 2014 | A    | 1st      |
| 21           | OGM  | BASIM IQBAL               | BCC-6                | 2014 | A    | 1st      |
| 22           | OGM  | NAEEM TALIB               | //                   | 7    | 2015 | A        |
| 23           | CAPT | MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB     | JSC45 (AD)           | 2015 | A    | 3rd      |

| HONOUR BOARD |      |                        |          |      |     |      |
|--------------|------|------------------------|----------|------|-----|------|
| SER          | RANK | NAME                   | COURSE   | YEAR | GRD | POSN |
| 1            | MAJ  | MUHAMMAD AMJAD         | JSC-40   | 2015 | A   | 1st  |
| 2            | MAJ  | MUHAMMAD AMJAD         | MCC-40   | 2015 | A   | 3rd  |
| 3            | MAJ  | ASMAT ULLAH            | ORMP-15  | 2016 | A   | 2nd  |
| 4            | CAPT | M HAROON SHAHZAD ANJUM | MCC-40   | 2016 | A   | 3rd  |
| 5            | OGM  | NAEEM TALIB            | BCC-7    | 2016 | A   | 1st  |
| 6            | OGM  | MUHAMMAD SAFDAR        | BCC-10   | 2017 | A   | 1st  |
| 7            | OGM  | ARSLAN HABIB           | BCC-11   | 2017 | A   | 1st  |
| 8            | HAV  | ZAIN ULLAH KHAN        | JLC-30   | 2018 | A   | 1st  |
| 9            | //   | SHAHID MEHMOOD         | OGMIC-20 | 2019 | A   | 1st  |
| 10           | OGM  | AHMED ALI TARIQ        | BCC-28   | 2020 | A   | 1st  |
| 11           | LT   | AHMED ALI ARIF         | YO-5 145 | 2021 | A   | 2nd  |
| 12           | HAV  | ADNAN ASHRAF           | ALC-35   | 2021 | A   | 1st  |
| 13           | OPR  | JAMIL ISMAT            | BCC-30   | 2022 | A   | 2nd  |
| 14           | HAV  | WAHEED IMRAN           | OGMIC-20 | 2022 | A   | 3rd  |



*Lt Col Mehmood ul Islam receiving Flight Safety Trophy from President General Pervez Musharraf in 2002. Capt Mehmood also got the Best Pilot Trophy in 1989 at Army Aviation School.*



## Second Lieutenants of Athwanja

- 2/Lt Javed Ahmad
- 2/Lt Jarrar Ahmad Khan
- 2/Lt Ali Asad
- 2/Lt Muhammad Masood
- 2/Lt Iqbal Ahmad Bajwa
- 2/Lt Syed Serajul Islam
- 2/Lt Mussarrat Khalique
- Lt Mushtaq Ahmed Qareshi
- 2/Lt Shabbir Ahmed
- 2/Lt Atta-ur-Rehman Khattak
- 2/Lt Babar Iqbal
- 2/Lt Pervaiz Iqbal Kashmiri
- 2/Lt Safdar Ali
- 2/Lt Muhammad Farid Ullah Khan
- 2/Lt Fahim-ur-Rehman Khan
- 2/Lt Zulfiqar Hussain
- 2/Lt Tariq Mahmood Butt
- 2/Lt Ghulam Ali Mughal
- 2/Lt Mahmuud Ul Islam
- 2/Lt Aamir Mushtaq Cheema
- 2/Lt Amanat Ullah Javed
- 2/Lt Tariq Mahmood
- 2/Lt Muhammad Javed Iqbal
- 2/Lt Asim Ali
- 2/Lt Muhammad Waseem Yaqoob
- 2/Lt Farooq Zaman
- 2/Lt Aamir Shahzad
- 2/Lt Marghoob Ali Khan
- 2/Lt Muhammad Javed
- 2/Lt Danish Javed
- 2/Lt Muhammad Shafaq Naveed
- 2/Lt Muhammad Yahya Jan
- 2/Lt Muhammad Saeed Satti
- 2/Lt Muhammad Yousaf
- 2/Lt Muhammad Atta
- 2/Lt Raees Ahmed
- 2/Lt Muhammad Amjad Naz
- 2/Lt Muhammad Anas Bin Khalil
- 2/Lt Hafiz Matee Ullah
- 2/Lt Mohammad Afzal Khan
- 2/Lt Muhammad Ijaz Butt
- 2/Lt Syed Tahir Hussain Mashaddi
- 2/Lt Abdul Rauf
- 2/Lt Aziz-ur-Rehman
- 2/Lt Sardar Liaqat Hamid
- 2/Lt Muhammad Ilyas
- 2/Lt Muhammad Mustajeeb-ur-Rehman
- 2/Lt Humayun Anwar Khawar
- 2/Lt Mubarik Ibrahim
- 2/Lt Khalid Hameed Shah
- 2/Lt Khalil
- 2/Lt Nazir Ahmed
- 2/Lt Saeed Wazir Butt
- 2/Lt Sohail Bashir
- 2/Lt Khalid Mahmood Raja
- 2/Lt Abdul Samee Khan
- 2/Lt Muhammad Mashtaq Saghir
- 2/Lt Muhammad Farooq
- 2/Lt Tariq Mehmood
- 2/Lt Tahir Akbar
- 2/Lt Aleem Ud Din Ahmed
- 2/Lt Muhammad Hafeez
- 2/Lt Muhammad Tahir Kaim Khani
- 2/Lt Muhammad Raheel Aslam
- 2/Lt Imran Hussain
- 2/Lt Arshad Amin
- 2/Lt Basharat Ali Khan
- 2/Lt Javed Iqbal
- 2/Lt Ahsan Saleem Malik
- 2/Lt Muhammad Umar Farooq
- 2/Lt Mairaj Alam Lone
- 2/Lt Asif Kamran
- 2/Lt Muhammad Haris Nouman
- 2/Lt Muhammad Adeel Ghalib
- 2/Lt Asmat Ullah
- 2/Lt Haroon Shahzad Anjum
- 2/Lt Nouman Hameed
- 2/Lt Muhammad Zafeer Iqbal Malik

- 2/Lt Ali Akhtar Abbas
- 2/Lt Muhammad Bilal Qureshi
- 2/Lt Muhammad Shehryar
- 2/Lt Usman Ehsan Butt
- 2/Lt Ahmed Arif
- 2/Lt Hamza Ali Khan

- 2/Lt Aqeel Jibran Ahmed
- 2/Lt Sharaf Khan
- 2/Lt Luqman Ismail
- 2/Lt Muhammad Haseeb Shakeel
- 2/Lt Mustafa Amir Malik
- 2/Lt Shah Faisal

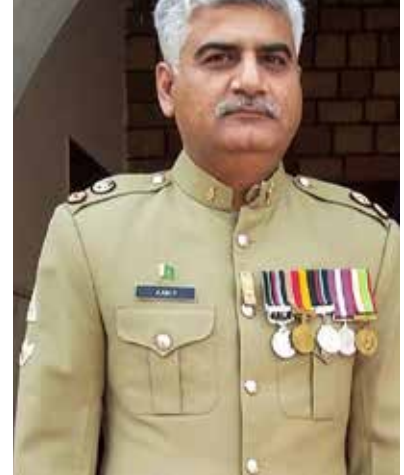
### ***Father and Son Serving in Athwanja***

*Capt Muhammad Ali Atta*  
*S/O Maj (R) Atta Ur Rehman Khattak*

*Capt Umer Bashir*  
*S/O Lt Col (R) Bashir Ahmad*



*Lt Mustafa Aamir Shahzad*



*Maj (R) Aamir Shahzad*



*2/Lt Hamza Ali Khan, Brig Basharat Ali Khan, Maj (R) Saleem Malik, Col Ahsan Malik*









COMMANDING OFFICER  
58 MED AD REGT  
(FAKHR-E-BADIN)

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| LT COL AKM SHAMSUL ALAM psc            | ★ | 05-02-1966 |
| LT COL MUHAMMAD IQBAL                  |   | 11-07-1967 |
| LT COL HABIB MEHMOOD HASHMI            |   | 06-06-1970 |
| LT COL ALI BIN AHMED                   |   | 06-04-1972 |
| LT COL SYED WALAYAT HUSSAIN psc, g+    |   | 17-12-1973 |
| LT COL ALAM SHER MALIK                 |   | 18-06-1975 |
| LT COL HANIF SAMAR psc, fsc (I) g+     |   | 23-05-1977 |
| LT COL ALTAF HUSSAIN psc, g+           | ★ | 27-11-1979 |
| LT COL MUHAMMAD JAMIL psc, g+          |   | 15-09-1980 |
| LT COL UMER HAYAT psc, g+              |   | 19-05-1983 |
| LT COL MUHAMMAD SARWAR psc, g+         | ★ | 01-08-1985 |
| LT COL MUHAMMAD ILYAS isc, g+          |   | 18-11-1987 |
| LT COL NASRULLAH KHAN g+               |   | 06-04-1989 |
| LT COL SAJJAD AHMED SHAH psc, adsc     | ★ | 02-11-1991 |
| LT COL KHALID HAMED SHAH psc, adsc     |   | 16-07-1993 |
| LT COL MUHAMMAD PERVEZ AKBAR psc, adsc | ★ | 15-06-1995 |
| LT COL ZIA MASOUD TOOR isc             |   | 09-09-1996 |







## Commanding Officers



*Shams ul Alam*



*Muhammad Iqbal*



*Habib Hashmi*



*Ali bin Ahmed*



*Alam Sher Malik*



*Hanif Samar*



## Commanding Officers



*Altaf Hussain*



*Muhammad Jamil*



*Umer Hayat*



*Muhammad Sarwar*



*Muhammad Ilyas*



*Nasrullah Khan*

## Commanding Officers



*Sajjad Shah*



*Khalid Hamed Shah*



*Pervez Akbar*



*Zia Toor*



*Zafar Baloch*



*Mueen ul Haque*



## Commanding Officers



*Muhammad Zahir*



*Farooq Zaman*



*Amjad Rasool*



*Basharat Khan*



*Javed Iqbal*



*Ahsan Saleem*

| <br><b>ADJT</b><br><b>58 LAA REGT ARTY</b> |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| CAPT RAB NAWAZ   | 06 JAN 66 |  |
| CAPT FERDZ KHAN  | 11 NOV 66 |  |
| CAPT ARSHAD AHAD   | 01 MAY 67 |  |
| CAPT AMIR KHAN   | 19 NOV 68 |  |
| CAPT FAHEEM DURKANI  | 12 APR 69 |  |
| CAPT ABDUL JABBAR LASKAR   | 21 NOV 70 |  |
| CAPT NAEEM UR REHMAN   | 07 SEP 71 |  |
| CAPT ASIF JAMIL *  | 22 NOV 73 |  |
| LT KHALID HAMEED SHAH  | 08 MAR 74 |  |
| CAPT ABDUL HALEEM SAGGU  | 23 AUG 74 |  |
| CAPT AHMED YAR BAKDIAL   | 06 OCT 75 |  |
| CAPT ZIA UL HAQ  | 08 FEB 76 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD IQBA NIAZI   | 03 JAN 77 |  |
| <br><b>58 MAA REGT</b>   |           |  |
| CAPT ERREST SHAMAS   | 27 NOV 77 |  |
| CAPT JAVED ANWAN   | 25 FEB 78 |  |
| CAPT KHALID HAMEED SHAH  | 01 JAN 80 |  |
| CAPT SAFOAR ALI SHAH   | 03 APR 80 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SALEEM   | 13 OCT 80 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SAJJAD *   | 01 FEB 81 |  |
| CAPT SAEED QAISER MEHDI  | 04 JUL 81 |  |
| CAPT PERVEZ AKBAR *  | 29 SEP 81 |  |
| LT SOHAIL RASHID   | 07 FEB 83 |  |
| CAPT FAHEEM UR REHMAN KHAN   | 20 SEP 83 |  |
| CAPT ZULFIQAR HUSSAIN SHAH   | 01 JAN 85 |  |
| CAPT TARIQ MEHMOOD BUTT  | 13 APR 85 |  |
| CAPT INTISAR UL HAQ  | 03 OCT 85 |  |
| CAPT MEHMOOD ISLAM   | 25 JAN 86 |  |
| CAPT AMIR MUSHTAQ CHEEMA   | 25 JAN 87 |  |
| CAPT AMANAT ULLAH JAVED  | 02 JUL 88 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD FARDOO   | 06 JAN 88 |  |
| CAPT HAMMAD RAZA RASHID  | 09 AUG 89 |  |
| CAPT TARIQ MEHMOOD   | 11 NOV 89 |  |
| CAPT ASIM ALI *  | 22 AUG 90 |  |
| CAPT ASIM ALI *  | 23 MAR 91 |  |
| <br><b>11 MED AD REGT</b>  |           |  |

| <br><b>ADJT</b><br><b>58 MED AD REGT</b> |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| CAPT WASIM YAOUB (Tb)   | 01 APR 93 |  |
| CAPT TAHIR GAIM KHANI   | 01 JAN 94 |  |
| CAPT GHULAM ALI MUGHAL  | 22 APR 94 |  |
| CAPT IMRAK HUSSAIN  | 03 JUL 94 |  |
| CAPT MEHMOOD AHMED KHAN   | 01 JAN 95 |  |
| CAPT FARDOO ZAMAN *   | 19 MAY 95 |  |
| CAPT AAMIR SHEHZAD  | 16 SEP 95 |  |
| CAPT BASHARAT ALI KHAN *  | 10 JAN 97 |  |
| LT JAVED IQBAL *  | 30 OCT 98 |  |
| CAPT BASHARAT ALI KHAN *  | 10 JAN 99 |  |
| LT JAVED IQBAL *  | 03 JUL 99 |  |
| CAPT ZAKI ANWAN KHAN  | 17 JUN 00 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD JAVED   | 19 JAN 01 |  |
| CAPT DANISH JAVED   | 24 AUG 01 |  |
| LT ANSAR SALEEM MALIK   | 11 DEC 02 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD YAHYA JAN SHAHEED (SM)  | 04 JUL 03 |  |
| LT MAIRAJ ALAM LONE   | 06 APR 04 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD YAHYA JAN SHAHEED (SM)  | 23 JUL 04 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SHAFIQ NAVEED   | 29 DEC 04 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD YAHYA JAN SHAHEED (SM)  | 23 JUL 04 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD UMAN FARDOO   | 29 OCT 05 |  |
| CAPT NASEEN UD DIN HAMAYUN  | 30 MAY 06 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SAEED SATTI   | 20 NOV 06 |  |
| CAPT MOHSIN ALI MAJID   | 01 JAN 07 |  |
| CAPT MAIRAJ ALAM LONE   | 01 OCT 07 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD HARIS NAUMAN  | 18 JAN 08 |  |
| CAPT KAMRAN ZAFER   | 14 AUG 08 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD ALI ATTA  | 18 DEC 08 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB  | 14 NOV 09 |  |
| LT ASMAT ULLAH  | 01 MAR 10 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB  | 07 JAN 11 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD AJMAD HAZ   | 10 APR 11 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD HAROON SHEHZAD  | 05 AUG 12 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD AMJAD   | 01 SEP 12 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD ANNAS BIN KHALIL  | 03 FEB 14 |  |
| CAPT JEHANZEB KHAN  | 02 SEP 15 |  |
| CAPT ROMAN HAMEED MISHWANI  | 18 SEP 16 |  |

| <br><b>ADJT</b><br><b>58 MED AD REGT</b> |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| LT ZAFER IQBAL MALIK  | 01 FEB 17 |  |
| LT ALI AKHTER ABBAS   | 06 MAR 18 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD BILAL QURESHI   | 18 MAY 19 |  |
| CAPT ZAFER IQBAL MALIK  | 02 JUL 19 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD SHEHRYAR  | 11 NOV 19 |  |
| CAPT LUOMAN ISMAIL  | 23 JUN 21 |  |

| <br><b>QM/ MTO</b><br><b>58 LAA REGT</b> |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| CAPT AMIR KHAN   | 10 FEB 68 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD AFZAL KHAN   | 04 JAN 69 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD LAZ BUTT   | 20 APR 70 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD MASOOD   | 05 APR 71 |  |
| LT MUSHTAQ QURESHI   | 11 SEP 71 |  |
| CAPT ASIF JAMIL *  | 01 MAR 72 |  |
| CAPT SHABDIN AHMED   | 18 NOV 73 |  |
| CAPT KHALID HAMID SHAH   | 03 JUN 75 |  |
| <br><b>58 MAA REGT</b>   |           |  |
| LT MUBARAK IBRAHIM   | 13 NOV 77 |  |
| CAPT SYED SAFOAR ALI   | 21 MAY 78 |  |
| CAPT AZEEZ -UL-HAQ   | 19 DEC 78 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SALEEM   | 16 MAY 81 |  |
| CAPT S QAISER MEHDI  | 15 JAN 82 |  |
| CAPT IHSAN-UR-REHMAN   | 12 MAY 82 |  |
| CAPT KHALID MEHMOOD RAJA   | 28 DEC 82 |  |
| CAPT ZULFIQAR SYED   | 04 JUL 83 |  |
| LT GHULAM ALI MUGHAL   | 01 JAN 85 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD FARDOO   | 26 OCT 86 |  |
| CAPT MUSHTAQ SAGHIR  | 26 MAY 87 |  |
| <br><b>58 LAA REGT</b>   |           |  |
| CAPT GHULAM ALI MUGHAL   | 15 MAY 89 |  |
| CAPT JAVED IQBAL *   | 22 DEC 89 |  |
| LT AHMED WAGAS SALEH   | 05 OCT 90 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD MASOOD   | 05 APR 71 |  |
| LT MUSHTAQ QURESHI   | 11 SEP 71 |  |
| CAPT ASIF JAMIL  | 01 MAR 72 |  |
| CAPT SHABDIN AHMED   | 18 NOV 73 |  |
| CAPT KHALID HAMID SHAH   | 03 JUN 75 |  |
| <br><b>11 MED AD REGT</b>  |           |  |
| CAPT JAVED IQBAL *   | 14 MAY 91 |  |
| CAPT TAHIR KAIM KHANI  | 15 OCT 91 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ   | 01 JUN 92 |  |



| QM/ MTO<br>58 MED AD REGT      |           |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SHOAB            | 07 JAN 94 |  |
| CAPT AMIR SHAHZAD              | 09 JUL 94 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SHOAB            | 03 JUN 95 |  |
| CAPT ARSHAD MALIK              | 09 APR 96 |  |
| CAPT SHAHZAD RASHID            | 01 DEC 96 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD JAVED            | 04 JUL 97 |  |
| LT DANISH JAVED                | 30 OCT 99 |  |
| LT AHSAN SAKHEEM MALIK         | 15 APR 01 |  |
| CAPT MARGHOOB ALI KHAN         | 01 DEC 01 |  |
| CAPT JAVED IQBAL *             | 01 AUG 02 |  |
| CAPT ASIF SHAMIM               | 01 JAN 03 |  |
| CAPT DANISH JAVED              | 07 MAY 03 |  |
| CAPT AZAM ALI SHAIDA           | 22 DEC 03 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD UMAR FAROOQ        | 14 DEC 04 |  |
| LT MAIRAJ ALAM LONE            | 18 JUL 05 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SAIED SATT       | 13 APR 06 |  |
| CAPT ASIF KAMRAN               | 21 MAR 07 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD HARI NAUMAN        | 25 JUN 07 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SAIED SATT       | 26 OCT 07 |  |
| LT MUHAMMAD HARI NAUMAN        | 14 AUG 08 |  |
| CAPT MOHSIN ALI MAJID          | 14 NOV 09 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD HARI NAUMAN      | 22 FEB 10 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB     | 10 APR 11 |  |
| LT RASEE AHMED                 | 23 DEC 11 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD AMJAD            | 03 FEB 14 |  |
| CAPT RASEE AHMED               | 26 JAN 15 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD HAROON SHAHZAD   | 19 SEP 15 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD ANNAS BIN KHALIL | 01 MAY 16 |  |
| LT HAFIZ MUTEE ULLAH           | 01 JAN 17 |  |
| CAPT NOMAN HAMEED MISHWANI     | 01 APR 17 |  |
| LT AQEEL JIBRAN AHMED          | 31 MAR 18 |  |
| CAPT HAFIZ MUTEE ULLAH         | 01 AUG 18 |  |
| CAPT ALI AKHTAR ANSAR          | 27 MAY 19 |  |
| CAPT M RILAL QURESHI           | 06 JAN 20 |  |
| LT SHARAF KHAN                 | 14 MAR 20 |  |
| LT USMAN AHSAN BUTT            | 10 JAN 21 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD SHEHRYAR         | 09 AUG 21 |  |

| 2IC<br>58 COMPOSITE LT AD REGT |        |  |
|--------------------------------|--------|--|
| MAJ MA QADEER KHAN             | JAN 66 |  |
| MAJ PAIRDA KHAN MIRZA          | JUN 66 |  |
| MAJ SAYYED ARSHAD HUSSAIN      | DEC 69 |  |
| MAJ VICTOR SAMUEL              | JUN 71 |  |
| MAJ KHALEEL-UR-REHMAN SHOLA    | DEC 71 |  |
| MAJ MUKHTAR AHMED LODHI        | FEB 74 |  |
| MAJ MOSSOUD                    | MAR 75 |  |
| MAJ DILAWAR SHAH               | AUG 76 |  |
| MAJ TARIQ MUHAMMAD (Psc)       | MAY 78 |  |
| MAJ NAZIR AHMED MUGHAL         | OCT 78 |  |
| MAJ KHALEEL-UR-REHMAN SHOLA    | JAN 81 |  |
| MAJ ZIA-UL-HAQ                 | DEC 81 |  |
| MAJ MUZAFFAR ALI KHAN          | APR 82 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ASLAM GILL        | DEC 82 |  |
| 58 MAA REGT                    |        |  |
| MAJ ABUL WAHID                 | MAY 83 |  |
| MAJ Z. M. BABAR                | DEC 84 |  |
| MAJ MUSARAT KHALIQUE           | APR 85 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MEHMOOD QAZI *       | OCT 85 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD SYED SARWAR *     | MAR 86 |  |
| MAJ JAVED RIAZ AHMED           | APR 88 |  |
| MAJ MEHMOOD HAIDER             | SEP 88 |  |
| MAJ JAVED AZIZ                 | JUL 90 |  |
| 11 MED AD REGT                 |        |  |
| MAJ SAJJAD AHMED *             | MAY 91 |  |
| MAJ HADATAT ULLAH              | NOV 91 |  |
| MAJ RASHID HAFEEZ              | FEB 92 |  |
| 58 MED AD REGT                 |        |  |
| MAJ M. ARSHAD WARRAICH         | OCT 93 |  |
| MAJ TAIMOOR UL HAMEED          | OCT 94 |  |
| MAJ GHULAM ALI MUGHAL          | SEP 95 |  |
| MAJ HAMMAD RAZA BASHIR         | MAR 96 |  |
| MAJ ASID JAVED                 | SEP 97 |  |
| MAJ MANZOOR AHMED JAFRI        | JUL 98 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD JAVED IQBAL       | OCT 99 |  |

| 2IC<br>58 MED AD REGT                 |        |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--|
| MAJ AMJAD BASHIR HUSSAIN              | DEC 02 |  |
| MAJ SHAKEEL AHMED KHAN                | JAN 03 |  |
| MAJ ALEEM UDDIN AHMED *               | JUN 03 |  |
| MAJ AHMED NADEEM SADAL                | OCT 04 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ                   | AUG 05 |  |
| MAJ ZAFAR AHMED                       | NOV 05 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ                   | JUL 06 |  |
| MAJ JAVED IQBAL *                     | JAN 08 |  |
| MAJ MUGHIS RAZA (Adsc)                | JAN 08 |  |
| MAJ SHAFIQ NAVEED (Adsc)              | SEP 08 |  |
| MAJ MUGHIS RAZA                       | JAN 09 |  |
| MAJ MARGHOOB ALI KHAN (Adsc)          | JUL 09 |  |
| MAJ AMIR SHEHZAD (Isr)                | JAN 11 |  |
| MAJ JAVED IQBAL (Psc, Adsc) *         | NOV 11 |  |
| MAJ FAISAL HUSSAIN (Adsc)             | JUL 12 |  |
| MAJ MAIRAJ ALAM LONE (Adsc)           | FEB 13 |  |
| MAJ SOHAIL AHMED (Isr)                | APR 13 |  |
| MAJ DANISH JAVED (Adsc)               | NOV 14 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD SHAKEEL (Adsc)           | JUN 16 |  |
| MAJ MAIRAJ ALAM LONE (Psc, Adsc)      | OCT 18 |  |
| MAJ AEMAT ULLAH                       | MAY 19 |  |
| MAJ AURANGZEB KHAN MARWAT (Psc, Adsc) | OCT 19 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ANNAS BIN KHALIL (Adsc)  | JUL 21 |  |

| BTY COMD 163-MED AD BTY<br>58 LAA REGT |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| MAJ IFTIKHAR AHMED                     | 30 SEP 65 |  |
| MAJ JAMIL HAIDER                       | 06 FEB 66 |  |
| MAJ F.A. SADDIQUE                      | 03 MAY 66 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ARIF AHMED KHAN           | 02 MAR 67 |  |
| MAJ IQBAL ALI SHAN                     | 26 OCT 69 |  |
| MAJ KHALIL UR REHMAN                   | 01 MAY 71 |  |
| MAJ JAMSHAJD AHMED                     | 01 JUN 72 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ALEEM FAROOQI             | 09 MAY 74 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD BAKHSH                    | 01 FEB 77 |  |
| MAJ MUZAFFAR ALI KHAN                  | 27 MAY 77 |  |
| 58 MAA REGT                            |           |  |
| MAJ ERNEST SHAMS                       | 28 NOV 78 |  |
| MAJ ADIL AKHTAR                        | 03 MAR 79 |  |
| MAJ SAJJAD AHMED *                     | 17 JUN 80 |  |
| MAJ ASAD ULLAH JAN                     | 27 JUL 81 |  |
| MAJ ZAHIR UD DIN BABAR                 | 28 MAR 82 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MEHMOOD QAZI * * *           | 06 MAY 84 |  |
| MAJ MUSARRAT KHALIQUE                  | 01 OCT 85 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD JAHANSIR BAJWA            | 21 MAR 86 |  |
| MAJ ABDUL MAJEED                       | 29 OCT 88 |  |
| MAJ TANVEER ASHRAF                     | 16 JUN 90 |  |
| 11 MED REGT                            |           |  |
| MAJ HIDAYAT ULLAH                      | 01 APR 91 |  |
| MAJ MIR MUHAMMAD TANVEER               | 21 OCT 91 |  |
| 58 MED AD REGT                         |           |  |
| MAJ ASIM ALI *                         | 01 APR 93 |  |
| MAJ RAB NAWAZ                          | 08 JAN 94 |  |
| MAJ ABDUL GHAFUOR *                    | 16 NOV 94 |  |
| MAJ TARIQ MEHMOOD                      | 28 AUG 95 |  |
| MAJ TARIQ MEHMOOD                      | 20 JAN 97 |  |
| MAJ NAEEM ARSHAD                       | 01 OCT 98 |  |
| MAJ SHAHZAD RASHID                     | 25 JUL 99 |  |
| MAJ JAVED IQBAL                        | 12 APR 00 |  |

| BTY COMD 163 MED AD-BTY<br>58 MED AD REGT |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| CAPT ZAKI ANWAR KHAN                      | 01 SEP 00 |  |
| MAJ ASIM ALI *                            | 29 SEP 00 |  |
| MAJ AMJAD BASHIR                          | 29 JAN 01 |  |
| CAPT JAVED IQBAL *                        | 02 JAN 02 |  |
| MAJ SHAKIL FARIDI *                       | 21 FEB 02 |  |
| MAJ ZAHOR AHMED                           | 05 JUN 02 |  |
| CAPT AZAM ALI SHAIDA                      | 01 JUN 03 |  |
| MAJ SHAHZADA TAHIR WASEER                 | 14 DEC 04 |  |
| MAJ MUGHIS RAZA                           | 21 OCT 06 |  |
| MAJ AHSAN SALEEM MALIK                    | 23 MAR 07 |  |
| MAJ JAVED IQBAL *                         | 14 AUG 07 |  |
| CAPT MOHSIN ALI MAJID                     | 06 OCT 07 |  |
| MAJ KAMRAN ZAREER                         | 12 AUG 08 |  |
| CAPT ASMAT ULLAH                          | 18 DEC 08 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB                | 01 AUG 11 |  |
| MAJ SOHAIL AHMED                          | 11 JUL 12 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB                 | 11 JUL 13 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD SHAKEEL                      | 01 SEP 15 |  |
| MAJ MAIRAJ ALAM LOHE                      | 25 SEP 17 |  |
| MAJ ASMAT ULLAH                           | 07 NOV 18 |  |
| MAJ RAEES AHMED                           | 04 JUL 19 |  |
| MAJ ANNAS BIN KHALIL                      | 10 NOV 19 |  |

| BTY COMD 213 MED AIR DEF BTY<br>58 LAA REGT |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| MAJ HUMAYUN AKHTAR                          | 06 JAN 06 |  |
| MAJ KHURSHID AHMED                          | 25 JUN 09 |  |
| MAJ BASHIR AHMED                            | 08 JAN 11 |  |
| MAJ WAQAR NAVEED *                          | 8 NOV 11  |  |
| MAJ FURQAN-UL-REHMAN                        | 03 SEP 12 |  |
| MAJ AMIN-UL-HAQ                             | 06 JUN 14 |  |
| MAJ MUSHTAQ HUSSAIN SHAH                    | 12 FEB 16 |  |
| 58 MAA REGT                                 |           |  |
| MAJ M. ANWAR KHAN (SJ) *                    | 01 SEP 77 |  |
| MAJ NAYYER HAMEED QURESHI                   | 27 JAN 78 |  |
| MAJ IMDAD ALI SHAH                          | 17 JAN 79 |  |
| MAJ OILAWAR SHAH                            | 23 JAN 80 |  |
| MAJ NAZIR AHED MUGHAL                       | 21 SEP 80 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD RIAZ MALIK                     | 23 JAN 81 |  |
| MAJ MAJID HUSSAIN                           | 04 JAN 82 |  |
| MAJ TANVEER RAFI *                          | 06 MAY 83 |  |
| MAJ MEHBOOB HAIDER                          | 21 APR 84 |  |
| MAJ ABRAH-UL-WAHEED                         | 15 JUL 85 |  |
| MAJ FATEH ALI                               | 17 NOV 87 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MASOOD **                         | 10 JUL 90 |  |
| 11 MED AD REGT<br>58 MED AD REGT            |           |  |
| MAJ RASHID HAFEEZ                           | 13 JUL 92 |  |
| MAJ ASAD MAHMOOD                            | 22 OCT 93 |  |
| MAJ GHULAM ALI MUGHAL                       | 09 FEB 95 |  |
| MAJ SHAHZAD RASHID                          | 01 OCT 97 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MEHMOOD AKBAR                     | 04 SEP 99 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ                         | 23 FEB 00 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD JAVED                         | 26 SEP 00 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR KAIM KHANI                        | 19 JNA 01 |  |
| MAJ AMJAD BASHIR HUSSAIN                    | 01 FEB 02 |  |
| CAPT AZAM ALI SHAIDA                        | 19 DEC 02 |  |
| MAJ AMJAD RASOOL                            | 16 APR 03 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ                         | 16 NOV 05 |  |
| MAJ BASHIRAT ALI KHAN *                     | 16 DEC 06 |  |

| BTY COMD 213 MED AIR DEF BTY<br>58 MED AD REGT |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| MAJ MUGHIS RAZA                                | 18 AUG 07 |  |
| MAJ IRFAN SHAHID                               | 06 OCT 08 |  |
| MAJ KASHIF JAVED                               | 11 APR 11 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD HARIS NAUMAN                     | 03 OCT 11 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD ADEEL GHALIB                     | 23 DEC 11 |  |
| MAJ MAIRAJ ALAM LOHE                           | 21 MAY 12 |  |
| CAPT WASI ULLAH                                | 13 OCT 13 |  |
| MAJ RASHID SUBHANI                             | 13 NOV 14 |  |
| MAJ WASI ULLAH                                 | 14 JUL 15 |  |
| CAPT ASMAT ULLAH                               | 19 SEP 16 |  |
| CAPT HAFIZ MATEE ULLAH                         | 12 JUN 18 |  |
| MAJ ASMAT ULLAH                                | 02 JUN 19 |  |
| MAJ AURANGZEB                                  | 30 OCT 19 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD AMJAD                             | 01 DEC 20 |  |
| MAJ WOMAN HAMEED                               | 23 MAR 21 |  |

| BTY COMD 303 MED AIR DEF BTY<br>58 LAA REGT |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| MAJ HABIB UR REHMAN                         | 01 SEP 71 |  |
| MAJ NASRULLAH KHAN                          | 15 MAR 73 |  |
| CAPT SAFDAR AMIN                            | 07 FEB 75 |  |
| MAJ ZAFAR IQBAL                             | 30 MAY 75 |  |
| MAJ MASOOD AHMED                            | 26 JAN 76 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ANWAR KHAN (SJ)                | 13 MAY 76 |  |
| 58 MAA REGT                                 |           |  |
| MAJ MASOOD AHMED                            | 15 JUL 77 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD USMAN ALI                      | 09 MAY 78 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD SARWAR                         | 25 JAN 81 |  |
| MAJ RAZI HAIDER ABBAS                       | 24 MAY 82 |  |
| MAJ SHAFIQ HUSSAIN RAZA                     | 10 MAY 84 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MEHMOOD QAZI ***                  | 07 JAN 85 |  |
| MAJ ZAKAR HANIF ALVI                        | 01 AUG 85 |  |
| MAJ JAVED RIAZ AHMED                        | 15 FEB 87 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD ASHRAF SALEEM                  | 04 JUL 88 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MASOOD **                         | 12 FEB 89 |  |
| MAJ TANVIR ASHRAF                           | 19 APR 90 |  |
| MAJ ABDUL MAJEED                            | 11 JUN 90 |  |
| 11 MED AD REGT<br>58 MED AD REGT            |           |  |
| MAJ MUKHTAR HUSSAIN                         | 05 MAR 92 |  |
| MAJ TAHIR MAHMOOD AKBAR                     | 07 JUN 93 |  |
| MAJ ABID JAVED                              | 22 JUL 95 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD HAFEEZ                         | 30 OCT 97 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD FAROOQ                         | 12 DEC 99 |  |
| MAJ AMJAD BASHIR HUSSAIN                    | 02 JUL 00 |  |
| MAJ SHAKIL AFRIDI                           | 12 JAN 02 |  |
| CAPT JAVED IQBAL *                          | 06 JUN 02 |  |
| CAPT MUHAMMAD JAVED                         | 03 DEC 04 |  |
| MAJ MUHAMMAD JAVED                          | 06 APR 05 |  |
| MAJ JAVED IQBAL *                           | 14 JAN 06 |  |
| MAJ M. SHAFIQ NAVEED                        | 14 AUG 06 |  |
| MAJ MARGHOOB ALI KHAN                       | 10 APR 06 |  |





2/Lt Muhammad Mustafeez-ur-Rehman now Brig, Defence Attache of Bangladesh was Commissioned in Athwanja in 1971. He visited regiment at Lahore in 1998. Lt Col Zafar Baloch CO Athwanja and SM Rehmat received him at Regiment.

## XI

### History of ‘History of Athwanja’

Regimental histories are the very basic brick stone of military history. The very idea to compile and publish the history of our regiment was floated by the Brigadier Farooq Zaman the Colonel of the Regiment during his installation ceremony in 2018 at Sargodha. I was already in the process of compiling the history of Army Air Defence; it had just taken off. Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem then commanding officer and Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj Lone the present commanding officer( then major and 2IC) whole heartedly supported the idea. Other notable regimental officers including Brigadier Pervaiz Akbar (retired) who had been the colonel of regiment as well gave valuable suggestions. In connection with the compilation of AAD History, I made another visit to Sargodha in December-January 2018-19 and stayed for well over a week. I was present on the raising day, which was being celebrated within the regiment, the cake was cut by the youngest soldier of the Athwanja, a great tradition in making.

During this visit the main aim was to collect the data from all the regiments and brigades stationed at station. This allowed me an indepth interaction with my own regiment, I went through the digest of service and war diaries too. The regiment itself does not have the War Diary of 1971 but thanks to Army Institute of Military History (AIMH) we were able to have the copy.

This interaction in January 2019 was very fruitful as the regiment was undergoing the process for induction in the Operation Al Mizan (OAM). I had a very close and daily interaction and observation of the regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem is the son of Major Saleem who was my BK as well in 1986 and I do remember Ahsan as a toddler . Major Mairaj Lone was the 2 IC and my first interaction with him dates back to 2008, when I was in Skardu, Gamba ( Army Aviation) and one evening he came from the forward areas where he was GSO-3 just to meet me because I am his unit officer. I had never met him before but this act certainly speaks volume by itself. During this two weeks of stay at Sargodha, I observed a great deal of the regiment more as nostalgia. I thought I will have a great free time with the officers and troops but I found them busy around the clock, physical training in the morning which is now battle oriented in the regimental track



*Retired. Sub Ghulam Rasool, Hon Lt Rehmat, Sub Maj Khushi Muhammad  
Maj Aamir Cheema (2019) at Sargodha*



**Maj Gen Tahir Qazi Commander Army Air Defence (2005) Served in Athwanja in 1985-1986**

20 Oct 86

Maj Gen Tahir Mahmud Qazi  
Commander AAD Conval.

It is an honour for us to visit the unit as  
one of my retirement from Svc. A unit where  
I served in 1985 and then proceeded to C956.  
The unit played a significant role in my  
professional grooming, Spac is AD Summary  
Unit the best of NAC, good sports teams,  
and the best of the best efforts. Thank you  
58th Regt. Now that I am leaving the  
Svc, I wish the unit, its efforts and  
the CO, Ldr of the team, the very best of  
luck, prosperity and happiness in life.  
May God be with you.

Kids 1st

*[Signature]*

20/10/86



**Maj Gen Tahir Qazi shaking hand with Lt Haris**



**Maj Gen Tahir Qazi GOC 4 AD Div shaking hand with his old Bty SJCO Rehmat**



**Lt Gen Ashraf Saleem Commander Army Air Defence (2006-2010) served in  
Athwanja in 1989-1990**



**Lt Gen Ashraf Saleem shaking hand with regimental khateeb**



**Lt Gen Ashraf Saleem testing the food in his old battery cook house**





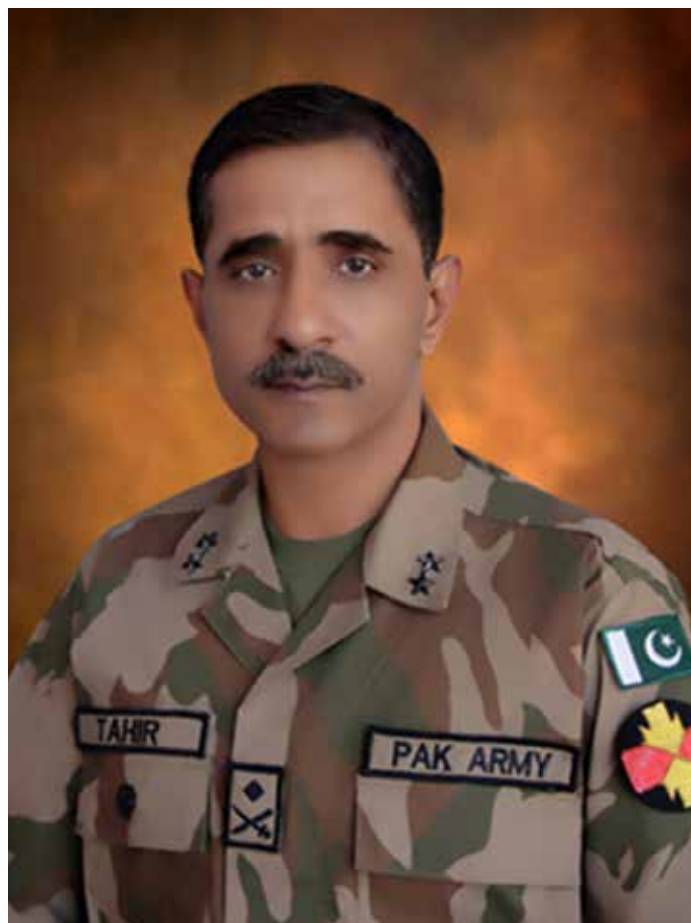
*Maj Gen (R) Rashid Baig, HI(M), Veteran 1971 War Late  
Battery Officer*



*Lt Gen Hon (R) Tahir Mahmood Qazi, HI (M)  
1984 - 1985. BC P Bty, 2IC*



*Lt Gen (R) M Ashraf Saleem, HI (M)  
1988-1989, BC R Bty*



*Maj Gen (R) Tahir Masood HI (M)  
1989-1991, BC, Q R Bty*



suits, then they went off firing at Kirana ranges and again night training. Major Lone invariably would take me in the evening to the Remount Depot Sargodha which, Major Lone himself is a polo player and was quite excited in highlighting that they are in the process of raising Army Air Defence polo team.

Next interaction took place at Pabbi where our regiment was undergoing the pre-induction training. The occasion was the rank wearing ceremony of Brigadier Basharat and Colonel Javed. Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj had taken over the command. Brigadiers retired Pervaiz Akbar, and Aleem apart from Lieutenant Colonel retired Zafar Baloch, Major retired Abid all came from Islamabad and Lahore for the ceremony. A high number of retired junior commissioned officers including Taj Sahib, Rehmat Sahib to name were also present, they had hire a taxi to be with the regiment.

Regiment moved into operational area in August 2019, it remained in touch with all its retired officers posting updates on new updates and achievements. Covid started in March 2020 and it has altered our way of life in a major way. In winter of 2020, Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj again reminded me about the History Book. An outline was made and it was circulated among all retired officers. As per army instructions, no serving officer can be a member of any social group. Major Mussarat Khalique retired, had formed a WhatsApp group of retired officers of Athwanja and it provided a good opportunity to me to circulate the outline plan of the proposed book to all. Lieutenant General Qazi took a keen interest and gave valuable suggestions.

The fundamental aspect is, a regimental history must cover all officers and troops as they form the regiment. The other important factor is the photographs, the pictures have undergone a major transition, in early days (1966-1978) the standard pattern was to have group photographs being taken on major events, with names written and framed or put in large size albums. From 1980s onwards the small size photo albums became in vogue. During the compilation of this book it was observed that old albums of regiments has been lost or misplaced yet over 5000 photographs in heaps are present. Thus, they have now been put in proper albums. The best available pictures were then scanned from Lahore for their high resolution impact. From 2005 onwards the digital photography made inroads, the issue with them is their low resolution which practically makes them unpractical to be made part of the book. Another integral part is the often virus crashes which wipes out entire record of events. Therefore the selection of photographs is more on the basis of their resolution than anything else. It is only in 2020 that regiment bought a high resolution camera. Lieutenant Colonel retired Ernest Shams has an excellent and nostalgic picture of veterans. Lieutenant Colonel retired Khalid Hameed Shah also gave very useful tips.

Digest of Service thus remains the most authentic source of our history, our regimental digest of service, as we all are aware and majority of us have written in it too is compiled basing upon army instructions therefore its content and style is official. It is a great source of data as it records all the posting in and outs, inductions, firing, marriages, births and deaths. Efforts were made to have first hand narrative from the retired officers and JCOs regarding their experiences and memoirs but in the end only three pages were received. A history book does require personal accounts, the very first day of joining the regiment, the command experience and so on. I have added what I knew, saw and

heard, however as we all are aware that the draft has to be cleared by the military intelligence lest any classified information is leaked involuntarily.

In June and July 2021, I visited and stayed with regiment at Mangora , Barikot and Daggar (Buner) for the compilation of the book. Captain Shehryar, Lieutenant Luqman, and Major Annas were the focal persons who assisted in the collection of pictures. I visited few posts, interacted with the troops and tried to gain as much knowledge on the current deployment as practically viable.

This interaction with regiment in operational area helped me to grasp that time has change, yet the very essence of military life is still the same. The close bond which one feels among each other irrespective of age and rank is beyond words to explain. I enjoyed sitting with appointment holders, talking with cooks and so on.; not to gain anything for the book but more as a tonic for my own soul. Invariably, one compares own time with present. The most fundamental difference from past is the level of confidence which present soldier radiates, he looks smart in combat dress with his loaded weapon , he is physically very fit and very courteous, knowledgeable and fully aware of the situation. I read digest of service again and again , the achievements in sports are amazing, the very fact that our regiment was the Champion regiment for four consecutive years at one station (Karachi) and then for two more years at Zulu speaks volume for the commanding officers.

I would take a bit of liberty in narrating my own stay in the regiment and also my interaction because only in this manner the life pattern of regiment 35 years ago can be preserved and present time can be preserved for the future generations.

## **My First Day in Regiment- 1984**

‘I got the flying coach from Lahore for Sargodha (there were only either buses, wagons, train and the modern Flying Coach), I have never been to this town before, however as a child I have read war books on 1965 Pakistan-India war and how own air force jets used to operate from this town, it was the major target of Indian Air Force as well and this city after the war was decorated with the title of ‘City of Falcons’ another myth about this city and especially about its runways was regarding their being underground, strange but it was a strong myth especially in school days

Journey took over six hours since I had not written any time of my arrival to my commanding officer thus when I got down from the coach at Sargodha and got a rickshaw and told him to take me to the cantonment and his reply Which cantonment? Really put me in a different state of mind. How many cantonments are here, I inquired, well there is an air force cantonment and than there is one across the canal



*Lt Tariq Butt, Lt Samee Khan, 1984*



Since my regiment was an anti-aircraft regiment therefore I made a logical conclusion that it must and should be in air force area, an hour later after going to PAF cantonment and back to the flying coach, rickshaw finally dropped me in the cantonment which was across the canal and he was running short of petrol as well. I stood alone with my two bags at the corner of a block and walked towards the room from where light was coming, it was not that late just after dusk, I knocked the door and a soldier opened the door and I walk in and met the officer who was lying on the bed, he was Lieutenant Samee Khan, he inquired about myself ,ordered tea and admonished me for not informing them in time so they could have arranged a proper reception for me and I felt guilty for my omission

As we were talking the door opened .room had three doors two in opposite direction ,one leading to the lawn from which I came and other to a corridor and third leading to the washroom and than to adjoining room, incomer was Major Zaheeruddin Bob Babur, and he was in sports kit and after some time came two officers namely Lieutenant Salik Cheema (later SJ shaheed) and Lieutenant Tanveer Mir (Lt Col retd and served in Athwanja as a major). Major Babur was happy in narrating the tennis game which he had just lost to the commander ( Brigadier Sardar Altaf), the two other officers over cup of tea kept agreeing with Major Babur and I was the only one who was just listening , in any case it is said a 'second lieutenant is supposed to listen and not to speak'. After appreciating Major Babur tennis skills the officers innocently inquired about the examination paper which I gathered was to be held tomorrow and Major Babur after this much of appreciation could not resist and gave them few tips and shortly they all left.

I was mentally thinking about the room and general environments, I found them very frank among each other and I had no idea how officers interact among each other, because till that time I had seen the platoon commanders in academy and that too from a distance and always in a formal way. always in tie and always speaking English ,we all cadets were advised during our final days in academy ,not to expect this kind of standards in rest of army and to be practical because what you have seen here in academy is ideal There is a tradition in army regarding first day of second lieutenants, they are made fool, one of the regimental officer acts as a batman to him and generally takes money and carry



*Maj (R) Samee*

out practical jokes with the new arrival who in any case has no idea of army, but every cadet knew about this and so did i A batman came and Lt Samee introduced him to me 'aamir this is kala , he is your batman' I just nodded and then Samee Khan gave a long lecture to Kala regarding his duties and warned him that if there is any complaint then he will be taken to the task, Samee also told Kala not to smoke my cigarettes or wear my clothes or use my shaving kit. I really felt grateful to Lt Samee for being so kind and considerate.

Kala then took my luggage from this room to next and after some time came and announced that he needs money to buy the bucket, polish and so many other things, I instinctly looked towards Lt Samee and he after scrutinising the list nodded and said 'aamir its okay, give him money' and I did and Kala kept on increasing the items, finally he brought certain things and I moved to other room and Kala started arranging clothes and kept on talking as well about the quality of my shoes leather , finally I gave him a shut up call, he in the end took my uniform for getting it pressed and I relax on my bed and finally went

to sleep without even taking my dinner.

Next day I was the first one to get up and get ready ,the excitement and joy of wearing the uniform was too much. There was no sign of Kala and panic sets in me. Finally some other batman brought my uniform and I was fuming from inside over Kala. I did not had the breakfast thanks to Kala.



*Lt Col Sarwar (CO) from Lt Lt Amanat, Lt Tariq, Capt Cheema, Maj Abrar, Lt Tahir, Capt Laghari, Capt Ali, Capt Mushtaq. PAF Base Sgd. 1987*

On that first day the regiment was preparing for some study period and I like a lamb just followed Lt Samee Khan, where ever he went I just followed him and he in between would utter some words which were not particularly addressed to me. other seniors and I meant everyone as I was the junior most also had a look at me, one Lt Ghulam Ali who was from the same company as I was in PMA gave me few hard words in his English which by and large was not much improved from the academy days but devoid of academy colour. Lieutenant Colonel Umar had a brief look at me but did not uttered any thing , in this manner the time passed, I saw the soldiers and JCO's and NCO's how they interacts with officer how they move, in academy we all cadets had the interaction with them but that was where they were on the giving end , it was frank they were talking in Punjabi or Urdu with the officers and among themselves only in Punjabi, I think I once even half got up on the approach of one JCO also, it took me some time to notice the red ribbon on the rank shoulder of the JCO and even more time to understand the rank of honorary captain

Next day during study period Major General Agha Masood Hasan the GOC AA also came and he shook hands with me and formally welcomed me into family of Ack Ack . To cut a long story short, Kala turned out to be Lieutenant Mushtaq Sagheer and this secret was open during the regimental tea break in officers tea bar , where I saw him but still could not recognise him , Lt Samee Khan than narrated the entire episode to the commanding officer and other officers and everyone had a good laugh. As per tradition, I was then dined in by the bachelors who took me out to a restaurant in the town, bill was paid from the amount that I had given to Kala.



## **My Commanding Officers**

Lieutenant Colonel Umar Hayat was my first commanding officer, I served under him for well over a year but practically had very little interaction with him, because as a subaltern I was on courses and as such cannot say much about him. He had grown a beard during the command and was much liked by the troops; he was posted to Frontier Corps (Balochistan). Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Sarwar is the only commanding officer under whom I served in totality as I saw him joining the regiment as a major and then being promoted after few days and then I as his adjutant saw him bid farewell to the regiment.

I was living in the upper stories BOQs in Sargodha and had come back from my YOs AA, last night and in the morning as I was standing in the balcony, I saw another officer standing in the next balcony. I said good morning to him and he replied politely. He inquired my name and regiment, which I replied and he then asked me about myself, how was the course, what sports I play. As a subaltern, one tends to take pride in own regiment thus I told him with exaggeration about my regiment, also shared the problems which a subaltern faces at that particular phase of life and also what kind of changes I want to see in the system and specifically in the garrison, regiment and mess. He listened with a smile, then I also inquired about him and which regiment he is in, 'I am Major Sarwar and now posted to 58 Medium Ack Ack'. Next day I saw him in regiment and after few days he took over as commanding officer. He was and still is a jat by heart, simple and loving, whenever anything goes wrong, he would give his trademark smile and would ask few questions, provided you tell him the truth; there was nothing to fear. I was more than often would be late in the morning and once he remarked, 'you and my son Amir age five are mentally of the same growth.' His son is now a squadron leader flying F-16s. He was a non smoker, but he never discouraged any one from smoking. I also remember the time, when while playing squash, he was too good in it, I smashed the ball and it went right into his thigh, he wobbled but did not said anything and went on to beat me. Till his posting out, I always had this desire to win the squash match from him and he lost the final match; I later realised he did it intentionally.

Lieutenant Colonel Ilyas was my last commanding officer in the regiment, when he came I was the adjutant but after few days with him I wished I could be relieved. I even requested him but he just gave a look. Reason being, he would go into the details of every letter and that means as an adjutant I had to now consult the SD book for every letter. I have no hesitation that I wept in front of him over this treatment. Yet as the days passed, I started liking him, very practical in every sense, he pointed out the sitting arrangement in Bara Khana where officers and jawans were sitting separately. A fluent Punjabi writer and poet, my most memorable evening in regiment was when he arranged bara khana for me, Once I came back from Siachen after completion of voluntary attachment. I also remember his iconic advice on marriage to all youngsters 'mar o marda mar, maryoon vasa da hi kar...oh man you must die daily, because only in this way a home is saved.'

Commanding Officers were all symbols and icons of military norms, behaviour, conduct and specially the uniform. It was always a desire to have our own uniform as good, starched as theirs. Their shoes were so good polished that one could see the reflections of the room. They would write and sign with fountain pen, never using ball point pen.

This brings into the subject of uniform. In eighties the standard uniform was starched khaki, khaki belt, anodised ranks, black DMS shoes, black socks, peak cap for parade, beret for office and khaki beret in the field. As a young officer, it was always a desire as how to make our uniform looks as glamorous as that of cavalry with their brass ranks. This more than anything else landed many young officers in warm waters. The name plate would be slightly altered so it is blacker and without official white outline, wearing of green camouflage commando scarf, and above all the two most coveted item of a lieutenant dream; the green belt and green jacket. A good starched uniform was the mark of an officer.

## Battery Commanders

Major Mahboob Haider was my first battery commander, at that time Major Zaheer ud Din Babur and Major Shafqat were the other two battery commanders; all three had different temperament . My battery commander , to me, it looked as if he is my enemy as He disliked my sitting in the office, he wanted me to be on the guns all the time, he discouraged my smoking, insisted , forced and compelled me to learn a game and appointed Havildar Zahoor to teach me volleyball, he wanted me to offer prayers in the mosque, read newspaper, write and submit him written book reviews, control my mess bills , never liked my long hair; I wished that I should have been in the P Battery. Thus this was my perception about him , only with passage of time, I realised how great he was. Sadly he died in 2005 earthquake.



*Lt Col (R) JRA Khan*

Major Zaheer ud Din Babur was a happy go lucky type, a very well dressed officer; he was commanding P Battery. Major Shafqat was the R Battery Commander. Later came Major Tahir Qazi (lieutenant general retired), he was due for his entrance examination for Command & Staff College. Lieutenant Colonel Sarwar liked him very much as they often would be busy in talking about the technical aspects of the guns. I was scared of Major Tahir Qazi, as he would always inspect the uniform and would insist on the punctuality. He too was fond of sports, a non smoker, he had a blue Toyota Corolla ( 1980 model). His passion for tennis can be gauged from the fact that despite preparing for the examination he would still find time to witness the Wimbledon in the Officers Mess Sargodha; invariably finding me sitting there . Perhaps this love for sports softened his heart towards me. I made a blunder of my life, I was attending the JOL and he was attending the Command & Staff College. I went for a call on and in that I requested him to teach me appreciation; he agreed to spare some time on a specific day. On that given day, I forgot ( although it was a matter of only two days later) and neither I bothered to send a chit through my batman ( that was the standard pattern) and nor I went later to offer any explanation. However , the guilt was so strong in me that I tried to avoid him . After the termination of his course, months later, he came to the regiment for his farewell and after the tea break, just passed one comment, ‘ I waited for you on that day’. Years passed by and in 1998 when he was promoted as Colonel in Gujranwala, I went to call on him and also asked for his advice. He gave two, ‘ apparently the first advice does not affect but still , in case, do not use official vehicle for private purpose. Secondly, be organised, even if you change the oil of your motor cycle regularly.’ Years passed by and I met him accidentally at Ayub Park, he had retired and had come with his grand



son. I got his address and next day presented him with my books. He was so happy and latter called me and was genuinely happy. Since 2015, I am in his good books. He shares his passion for music which I never knew , his love for books and above all a genuine affiliation and affection with Athwanja.

Major Ashraf Saleem (later lieutenant general retired) was posted to Athwanja after the termination of his Staff College in Indonesia., a non smoker and from the perspective of a smoker junior officer it simply means that our paths are different. Obviously an officer who was fond of reading and professional. In 2021, while talking to our regiment's barber Zafar, he narrated a story. *'While Major Ashraf Saleem was 2IC of the regiment, his family was located at Rawalpindi, so one day during Ramzan I went to cut the hair of his children. Baaji first inquired me , whether I am fasting or not, on my answer, she herself prepared the lunch as batman was fasting. Few years ago I again went to his home after he had retired and on seeing his children narrated the story to him. He smiled and said, now you cannot go back without having food'.*

Major Abrar Ul Waheed and Major Javed Riaz Ahmed Khan ( lieutenant colonel retired) alongwith Major Zakir Hanif Alvi were the other battery commanders. Major Abrar and Major JRA Khan were both from 13 LAA. Major Abrar remained my side room mate for some time as well. Fluent in English and a strict observer of manners. He was also the battery commander at Parachinar . An ardent follower of Cricket and also a good player too. He had a Volkswagen which more than anything else was the main source of anxiety to our MT Havildar Aslam. Our battery clerk Sattar also had a time with him as Major Abrar , as he had recently after much discussion with our 2IC managed to get one dictionary for the battery , thus every letter of Sattar bounced back and in the end Clerk Sattar also convinced Major Abrar to get a dictionary for him (Sattar ) too. Major Abrar would argue so fiercely for the battery affairs with CO and 2IC that in the end our battery had the best of everything. Major JRA Khan had joined the regiment after his stint as an intelligence officer in an infantry division, thus we bachelors were quite sceptical of him. He made a 'lassi of our damag' for the reason that he was having two personalities, one during working hours and other after that. In the evening he was the most jolly and cheerful person, listening to music loudly in our BOQs ( he was married and living in MOQs), dancing and always taking us bachelors out on his red Suzuki FX. Very next morning , one would expect him to have some regard for last night , but a minute late from parade means a volley of shots from him, checking our shaves and so on. We bachelors decided to have a boycott of him ,but as soon as the commanding officers had left after the working hours, Major JRA Khan would be standing in the adjutant office with his trademark smile, head slightly tilt and his car keys around his fingers ' chalein...lets go'. He was the one who made us all realised that thee is a difference between working hours and off the parade and both should never be mixed or overlapped. Major Abrar had a Rayban glasses which he was kind enough to loan to me on special occasions but on the condition that I will narrate the story.

Among the **Battery Captains**, Captain Intisar and Captain Saleem Malik both joined the regiment almost together, both had similar physical appearances. Captain Saleem had joined after his Gunnery Staff course. Both were much senior and were stuck up due to promotion examination; both had been failing in International Relations on regular basis.. Thus they would often come to the BOQs for study purpose. Captain Intisar had many stories to narrate, he had served as a lieutenant with Major General Agha Masood in 41 MAA; thus whenever the GOC would visit our regiment, he would address Captain

Intesar lovingly as 'Badmaash 'you are still stuck up with promotion examination. .Captain Saleem was kind enough , not only to teach us for the lieutenant-captain promotion paper but also to be more than liberal in marking and giving marks in practical part of examination.

### **Bachelor Officers Quarters**

A young newly posted second lieutenant is in reality groomed by senior subalterns in BOQs. When I joined regiment, Lieutenants Tariq Butt, Khalid Raja, Samee Khan, Ghulam Ali Mughal, Mushtaq Sagheer were present in BOQs. Lieutenant Mahmood Ul Islam Yousafzai was on course and so was Lieutenant Farooq Leghari. It was a weird situation as both Tariq Butt and Khalid Raja were PMA Coursemates but one had been relegated and same was the case with Mahmood ul Islam and Farooq Leghari. Captain Faheem was the senior most , he had recently got married , Lieutenant Suhail Bashir was next in seniority but he was stuck up with promotion examination and undergoing Arabic language course. From these subalterns the history continued as they would narrate the stories of past like Captain Iftikhar Marshal, Major Asad, about their seniors and also about their JCOs, NCOs and soldiers. Captain Zulfiqar 'Shah Jee' was also present and performing the duties of adjutant, because of his English, I was spared the wrath of adjutant , however Lieutenant Tariq Butt more than due, compensated all that . shortcomings. Weekends were subject to the will of adjutant, because he would find some work for me. As the days passed , he became the best of friend. Lieutenant Khalid Raja was a serious type officer and would often give his piece of advice. He had done good in YOs and as



*Lt Col (R) Hamad Bashir*



*Lt Col (R) Sohail Bashir*



*Bachelor Officers Quarters (BOQs) at Sargodha*



such was well respected. His brother was a Flying Officer in PAF and met a fatal crash in those days. Captain Mahmood was the most naughty yet he had topped not only PT Course but also later got the best pilot trophy in Aviation Course as well. Myself and him were room mate in regiment and also in Aviation School too. Lieutenant Farooq Leghari , myself, Captain Zulfiqar Shah later attended Giraffe radar course together at Rawalpindi in 1986. Captain Leghari has a Seraiki accent which sounds so pleasant to ears on telephone and once due to his this voice charm, I had to travel with him from Sargodha- Rawalpindi and back in one day; it was twelve hours of travelling.

Among the second lieutenants that I received in regiment includes Major Tariq, Brigadier Aleem, Major Tariq, Lieutenant Colonel Javed Iqbal, Lieutenant Colonel Tahir, Lieutenant Colonel Hafeez 'Marshall' and Major Amanat Gujjar. Reception and playing prank on a subaltern is very much his right; if one does not play practical joke on a second lieutenant on his arrival then he will be without a story to narrate in his later days. Aleem was taken for a reconnaissance and as a fighting patrol commander, hours after his arrival. He was ambushed enroute and still he managed to reach back early in the morning to the BOQs from Chota Sargodha airfield. Same prank was repeated with Tariq 'blue eyes' he too was ambushed on a pitch dark night. For Tahir Akbar the venue and method was changed, a drama was arranged in 'Street No 11' where a 'raid' was simulated. Same was done on Javed Iqbal; in both cases a good amount was recovered for a 'lavish Dine in party'. Music , and motorcycles were integral part of BOQs whether in garrison or in AA School. When I joined regiment, the 'car stereos' in modified shape were the in thing. Captain Aftab an ASC officer living in same BOQs but opposite our rooms and a good friend of bachelors had a good proper stereo system. Later Captain Hammad Raza also had a dual cassette player; he also had a brief case as well. A brief case was a symbol of maturity and as such subalterns and young captains would have this item on wish list. Talcum powder was another in vogue item, body spray were not yet popular. Talcum powder serves dual purpose of air freshener when it is blown in air. Modified air cooler 'Lahori cooler' was the main defence against the heat of Sargodha . There was no air conditioner among the bachelors of Athwanja. Officers pay was prepared in Rawalpindi and they would deduct the electricity bill as well. Thus invariably any officer going on leave to Rawalpindi was also given the task of rectifying this anomaly. Lieutenant Tahir Akbar would usually come late , rather very late at night and what was frightening for others was to listen to his tales at that time; thus as soon as the noise of his motorbike was in air, all lights in rooms would be switched off and everyone would pretend as he is in deep sleep ; it did not worked . Another irony was lack of sleep in summer, you are lucky to have any siesta in BOQs, a constant fear of someone knocking at your door and when you open the door, the usual inquiry was , ' where is lieutenant so and so or are these rooms of so and so regiment'. A time came when just like PMA the doors were locked from outside , in order to have a sleep of few hours. Hospitality was always extended to any officer irrespective of his regiment or rank, if he knocks on your door. There were only two guest rooms in the mess. Ladies guests were entertained only in Ladies Room. Book reading was the best way of passing time, on weekends the officers would often finish the novels. A bachelor and a youngster would start with fiction and slowly would be guided by senior majors to read military history. Station Mess Sargodha had a library, a good library and it was common practise to visit it after the games and get few books issued, however reading anything other than GSP during parade hours was always disliked by battery commanders. VCR was another 'apple of discord', regiment

had one but it was issued as training aid thus to take it to BOQs one requires the permission of either commanding officer or 2IC. Movies were taken 'on rent' from the market the usual rent being Rupees ten per night. Problem was that it was the duty of junior most officer to fetch the movies and as such in case of delay the rent would keep on increasing; it was paid collectively by all bachelors and amount being adjusted in field mess bill. There were two newspapers, Pakistan Times and an Urdu probably Mashriq, then there were News Week, Time, Readers Digest and commanding officer would require reviews from young officers.

Major Sarwar was our 2IC, thus our CO and 2IC were both Sarwar. Major Sarwar was a parental Athwanja, a pipe smoker officer, only one at that time, later Major JRA Khan also carried pipe. Major Sarwar had a Ford Cortina car, a huge car indeed, in which in the morning all bachelors would be accommodated for morning parade and also in the evening he would take us out for outing. As the story goes, Major had suffered a heart stroke and was admitted in CMH Sargodha, in the same ward our adjutant was also admitted for a day or so, and as events further unfolds, a 'broken heart' came to return the gifts of the adjutant, she decided that there is no fun in returning them personally, thus she threw them one by one from the door, few were caught by our 2IC as well despite being sick. Major Mussarrat Khaliq another parental officer was the next 2IC, he had a Honda 175 a 1969 model with original key, which he was kind enough to give me on the original price. He after retirement is very active on social media, created a WhatsApp group of Veterans and it has helped a great deal in gaining data for this book.

Subedar Major Amir of Khiali, was a remarkable person, honest and dedicated, he had an almost perfect understanding with commanding officers thus it was a great fun to work with him. Havildar Allah Rakha was RP NCO, he was a maverick in every sense, there was nothing under the sun that was out of his reach, a master in establishing electricity connections from any electric pole. Naib Subedar Abid, a very thin, slim, chain smoker, who was part of basketball team. His main expertise was in preparing Presentation Slides. At that time, presentation or briefing as it was known, was done by commanding officer on a wooden stand, there used to be long sheets of paper covered with plastic, and these would be rolled over, one by one in front of visitor. Naib Subedar Abid had to prepare those presentation. He would work late in his room, with all kind of stencils and pentals around, his assistant havildar Khursheed was almost inseparable from him. Naib Subedar Abid had one more quality, he would 'prepare' the documents of our players as and when the occasion demands. At times there were some restrictions on age or service limit on players. Those pre-match nights were so full of mystery, in a dimly lit room, full of smoke, the adjutant, players (only experienced) would be sitting around, sipping tea from canteen and discussing the strategy of the match. Naik Razaqat (later SM) was bit heavy in weight, tall and dedicated to the cause of Athwanja, he was member of basketball and our heavy weight boxer too. For boxing, in order to motivate the team, movies like Rocky I, II and III were shown almost daily on our regiment VCR. Subedar Taj was our battery JCO (Q Battery) with Naib Subedar Hidayat as his deputy. At that time many JCOs were not very fluent in writing thus they had their own symbols for noting down the instructions of battery commander.

History will be incomplete without mentioning the name of Nizam field mess waiter. He was enrolled in 1969 and fought the 1971 War with the regiment, later he also went on secondment to



Saudi Arabia as well and enrolled again in the regiment. He was good in cooking as well, pasted coffee was his speciality. Tea in regiment was always served in the Tea pots covered with 'T-Coxy' which was in the shape of a hen. Commanding Officer and regimental guests in silver tea –set. Commanding Officers as a habit would have their morning tea on their arrival in the office and usually they were not disturbed during that time. Tea Break at 1030 hours was mandatory, nothing from the market, everything cooked within the field mess kitchen; it included , ' channa chaat, dahi balay, fruit chaat, Dacca Chicken, roasted chicken, samosas '. Officers coming back from leave were as per tradition would bring sweets, and Major JRA Khan stated that it has to be only item and not mixed. Chicken were often fined for any minor mistake or error in uniform, like shoulder badges being in reverse order, even commanding officers on one odd occasion gave a chicken on this aspect. 'Tea bag tea' made its entry in 1986 and was taken as a fancy item. Mineral water bottles in 1988 when Cricket World Cup was held in Pakistan- India, otherwise a jug of water was good enough, the glasses had beautiful cloth covers, paper tissues also first appeared in 1988, starched white cloth napkins were used in field and in the station mess. Nizam was a witty waiter, once during an official function which was well arranged by another regiment, the chief guest inquired appreciated the standard of food and ' Athwanja ka nizam hei' was the whisper of our mess waiter, later when the same senior officer at the end of dinner came to know about the host, he again raised his eye brows and Nizam promptly replied ' Athwanja ka Nizam'; the officer gave a good laugh and appreciated his regimentation.

### **Buner- Summer of 2021**

Regiment was part of a brigade group, overall under-command Malakand Task Force being commanded by a major general. Own batteries being deployed at various locations with multiple duties, task and responsibilities; manning of posts at heights, on roads, patrolling, security of key installation including jail. It remained deployed in two districts namely Swat and Buner for well over two years. In this period the routine military life like attending of military courses by newly posted young officers, promotion cadres for soldiers, leave rotation all took place. Those soldiers who completed their colour service also bid farewell to arms in operational areas, officers on promotion like Major Aurangzeb were dined out as well. In the operational area , much needed physical and mental relaxation was also catered by visiting historical places within the area of responsibility. The daily requirement of officers mess were met with purchase from bazar. Ramzan, Eid ul Fitr, Eid Ul Azha, Independence Day, Defence Day were celebrated and observed . Regiment as a charter of duty has to create a good impression of the army and the state in order to eradicate the poison of militants and miscreants ; by arranging , attending and providing security to sports festivals, galas , academic and religious ceremonies. Thus it is obvious that it is an around the clock dedication and high alertness with no room for any laxity or lowering of guard. Weather in winter is quite harsh at the mountain posts , in order to maintain the morale of troops and to constantly monitor the area awareness among all ranks, commanding officer practically remains on move ; on foot and on wheels with no distinction between day and night. The following account is given in order to highlight the way of life our regiment and all ranks underwent .

The first impression of Swat is very good a town having more car showrooms than any other town or city in KPK including Peshawar. The main reason being that non custom paid vehicles are allowed

in Malakand Division. Swat, Buner, Chitral, Lower and Upper Dir, are part of Malakand Division. Mingora and Saidu Sharif are twin towns and they still maintain culture of bonce being a Royal State. Swat still attracts s a holiday crowd from all over Pakistan. In 2019 over half a million vehicles poured in at Swat during holiday season. Regiment had one among many of its headquarters at Mingora Circuit House, a rented building given by civil administration. A good , spacious, well protected, fenced area opposite to the Swat Museum. A civilian complaint cell is also being maintained by regiment thus quite a flow of civilians at times.

I met Captain Shehryar, Major Anas (he had joined few days ago, a parental officer) and the commanding officer. Over next few days, I apart from reading the Digest of Service also went through almost two thousands of photographs to select most suitable basing upon quality for printing. Lieutenant Colonel Lone, remained busy but still he briefed me over food and tea. His



*Lt Col Mairaj, Maj (R) Aamir Cheema at Buner*

main concern on arrival in the Swat was to keep the discipline intact and to gain as much information about the area and people as possible. A close liaison with civilly bureaucracy is required thus daily interaction with commissioner, deputy commissioner, police officials, and also the army chain of command. This involves extensive travelling. On the other hand, regiment is deployed on a wide area therefore extensive long distance foot patrolling. ‘ I very in the beginning to set the pace led the troops to over sixteen hours of patrolling in the mountains. The aim being that each and every soldier and officer must be familiarised with the area, posts should be able to support each other physically in hour of need and that is only possible if we know the mountains.’ Other concern is to keep the discipline intact, Swat is a fertile area, city full of all kind of activities. I installed security cameras in few vehicles and monitored them through a control room, thus any one violating SOPs in terms of speed, dress or even halting at unauthorised spot or place is now recorded’. During this same trip I was also taken to the Barikot where own regiment had a tactical headquarters and introduced to three new subalterns , 2/Lts Ahmed, Haseeb and Fazl; a very good addition to our family. Commanding Officer narrated an interesting story. ‘ The regiment SM was due for retirement and selection of new SM is although based upon seniority but still the ability over-rides seniority as the duties of SM requires a certain temperament. I had made up my mind on the current SM as he was not only senior most but capable too, yet I intentionally gave hints of my mindset. One day in the evening I see five retired JCOs including two SMs of the regiment waiting for me at the Circuit House; they had hired a taxi and came all the way from Sargodha. I got the message but still waited for them to speak about the





*Left to Right: Cook Hanif, Mess Waiters, Nouman, Meherdeen, Awais*



*Left to Right: Sanitary Workers, Akram, Shamjad, Waqas, Pitras, Arshad*



*Naik Saleem*



*Naik Nazeer*



*Canteen Contractor: Khattak and his Son*



*Barber Zafar, Barber Mubashir and Barber Nadeem*



*Washerman on Right Late Sadiq*



*L to R: NCB Ghulam Jan, NCB Ayub, NCB Aftab, NCB Anayat, NCB Azeem & NCB Abrar*



*Tailor Abubaker*

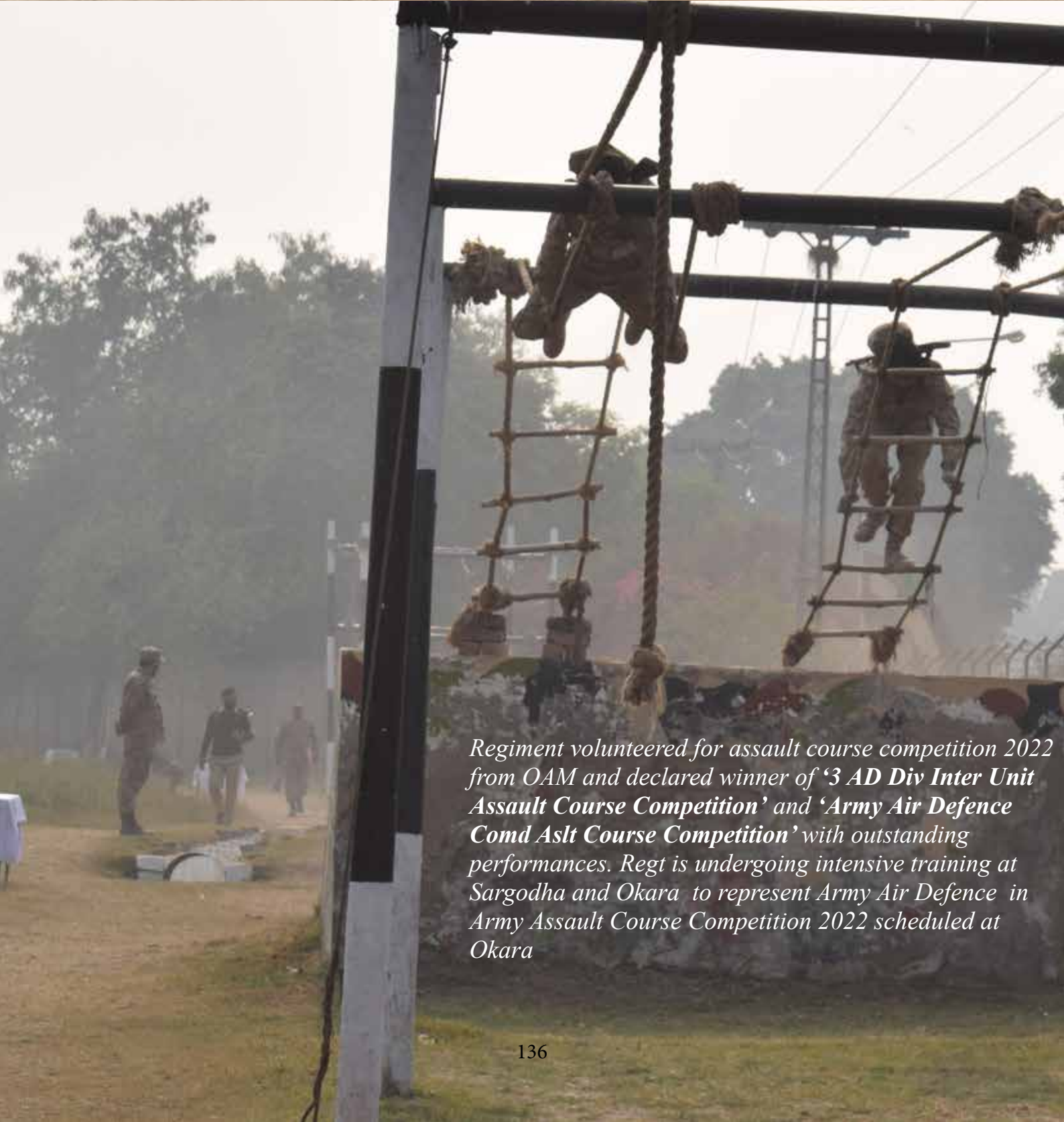




*Left to Right: Capt Shehryar, Capt Ali, Capt Matee, Maj (R) Cheema, Brig (R) Aleem, Maj (R) Saleem, Col Ahsan, Brig Basharat, Lt Col Mairaj, 2/Lt Hamza. on occasion of Col Ahsan promotion at his residence on 14th June 2022*

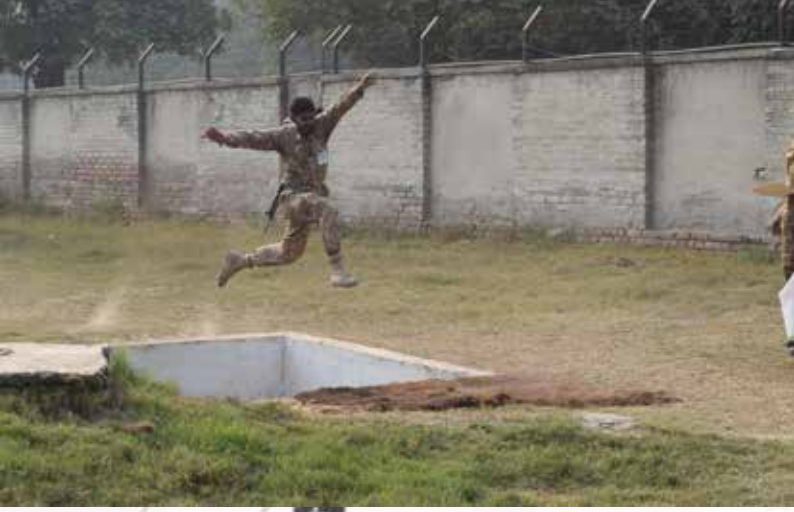






*Regiment volunteered for assault course competition 2022 from OAM and declared winner of '3 AD Div Inter Unit Assault Course Competition' and 'Army Air Defence Comd Aslt Course Competition' with outstanding performances. Regt is undergoing intensive training at Sargodha and Okara to represent Army Air Defence in Army Assault Course Competition 2022 scheduled at Okara*





*Maj Gen Goraya GOC 3 AD Div, Brig Rafique Comd 3 AD Bde, CO Athwanja with the winning team*



*2/Lt Hamza*

*Lt Col Mairaj CO*

*Capt Usman receiving winner trophy of Army Air Defence Command Assault Course Competition trophy from Col Staff Col(Approved Brig) Mehraj (Athwanja Offr)*



purpose of their visit. They after some left-right talk, came to the point and highlighted the services, good nature and dedication of the SM. I did not promised them anything, treated them well, send them around for sight seeing and offered them farewell souvenirs too'. I made Subedar Hameed as SM as he was deserving and fulfilling all the criteria, yet this act of retired JCOs speaks for itself as how they still feel part of regiment.

The second visit took place in July and by this time regiment had moved its tactical headquarters to Dagar in Buner District. I was picked up by two NCOs in civil clothes and civil vehicle from Barikot, enroute one of the soldier at a small town, went inside a general store and offered me a Sting and a pack of biscuits; a very moving gesture, it speaks volume of the morale of troops .

Journey took almost three hours and passed through some most scenic beauty, green and fertile, we crossed Katalang Pass which is highest in the area and allows inter-district link. Dagar is a small town in a wide green valley, surrounded by layers and layers of peaks, hills and mountain. The regiment's headquarters were located in circuit house. This circuit house is infact a colony which was constructed in early seventies by Dr A.Q.Khan and presently comprised of provincial government offices and officials residences including deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner and police officials. Very first night there was dine out of Major Aurangzeb and also the rank wearing ceremony; he has been promoted to next rank after serving two years as 2IC. After few days commanding officer went on much awaited and much deserved casual leave. In the absence of commanding officer, no matter how good he is, there is always a bit of mental relaxation although the routine still remains the same. I visited two posts, one at Nansar and other at Malikpur; at both posts I found own troops in high morale and vigilant. The fresh ration is provided by contractor including chicken and goat, soldiers at times cook the food themselves and have become quite an expert in it. Old mosquito nets has been replaced by self-purchased foldable mosquito nets, similarly the old green canvas tents has also been replaced with camouflaged tents, these new tents have an inbuilt anti-mosquito net.

In the headquarters, I, as a routine at evening spent time at cook house; one genuinely feels short of words to explain the dedication of our regimental cooks. In such scorching heat they cook 120 parathas in the morning and an average of 800 chapatis daily. There is meat almost six days a week, channay and halwa on Sunday morning; everyone I interacted is happy with the standard, quality and quantity of ration. Regiment has made certain improvisations in the field burner and few more experiments are still in progress, all to improve the quality and safety in cooking. The regimental doctor Captain Saad was performing the duty of field mess secretary as well; a good officer indeed. The mess havildar makes purchases from bazar, he has a motorcycle. Cook Abdullah completed his colour service in August 202. Just for the record, Olympics at Tokyo and Pakistan Tour of England and West Indies were the main highlights of the summer.

As commanding officer was about to rejoined from leave, the air changed and the day he came back, everyone tried to remain out of the 'line of sight'; things settled down to normal after few days . I requested commanding officer to take me along when he visits the posts and Barikot , I had one desire to see the Bazira Ruins. Thus, I was dropped there and guided by Subedar Omar and commanding officer and Major Anas proceeded to Bari Kot headquarters for their official work. During this day long journey I , first time interacted with commanding officer in so much detail, I just observed him and he

gave me an update and his philosophy of work in the operational area. 'First and foremost, you must lead from front, situation awareness is paramount, each post commander must be in picture of what is happening within five miles of his post. Physical fitness is the key to over-coming miscreants, uniform and wearing of helmet, carrying of weapon in the specified pattern is a reflection of self-discipline.' One positive aspect of being a parental commanding officer is the fact that you know men and vice-versa thus everything is taken in positive spirit. At each post, CO inspected it thoroughly pointing out shortcomings and then in the end pat the post commander and gave some cash to further improve the post and living. We spent almost fifteen hours on road visiting Barikot, Mangora, Minglora, Fiza Ghat and back.

Our next trip was towards Alm Mountain the very site and place of our major operation in 2020. There is an Azad Kashmir Regiment company which is undercommand Athwanja apart from one Wing of Dir Scouts; coincidentally this wing is being commanded by Major Umar a parental officer of Athwanja. The track to Alm was non existent two years ago but now a road is under construction and one main reason of this visit was to see the progress of the road. It takes over three hours of driving, over one of the most difficult track in the area. Area is remarkably scenic, pine trees and green. Halak Sar gives an impressive outlook like a citadel, as you move up and traverse, one comes across the side view of this mountain. Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj pointed out the place where own troops conducted search, it is thickly vegetated. On the left of track is a ravine which separates the mountain ranges, there are own posts across it too. Alm Village is small hamlet, there are two schools of primary and secondary education, own regiment has played an important role in the beautification and maintenance of the school by constructing small wooden bridge to facilitate the children.

Jogiano Sar at noon was partially covered with clouds, we drove further forward, during this drive many a times we all passengers would get down so as the vehicle can clear the ground. The work was underway manually and also the use of heavy machinery by civil contractor. The people in the area are mainly Gujjars and small kids were seen sitting on rocks amidst the slopes watching and monitoring their goats. This is main reason of locals outwitting the para military force, this kind of stamina and above all mental state void of any fear of snake or darkness comes only through with this upbringing. When vehicle was able to make it across the small pass that separates Buner and Swat albeit with some difficulty, it was a historic moment. On our return which was equally tiring, lunch was consumed at Alm Village prepared by the Azad Kashmir infantry company.

One of the scholarly find of this trip was the Rock of Aoronos which is debateable among scholars of Alexander the Great's marches in Swat dating back to 324 B.C. By all evidence, the Jogiano Sar is infact the Aoronos Rock.

## **June 2022.**

In June 2022, I made a final trip to Sargodha to finalise the book draft as it was given a go ahead by higher headquarters. I arrived by Daewoo from Lahore, took a rickshaw to reach cantonment and enroute gave a call to Lt Col Mairaj so as to inform the security staff at garrison gate. Lt Col Mairaj received me at garrison gate and then straight away took me to the regiment as it was in the way, first



to the soldiers mess and what a treat it was to see the spotless soldiers mess. The way food was being served and consumed, the tables, crockery and layout all as good as one can ever imagine. It is airconditioned with a state of art water filtration plant, the new gadgetries in soldiers cook house which has eased the dough making, freezers for meat storage; most impressive. The adjoining newly furbished tailor and barber shop. Even the barber shop is airconditioned. Then to the threat library where few soldiers were reading books. The best part was that it was all at the spur of the moment and the layout, cleanliness and security all speaks volume for the regiment. The regiment after coming back from operational area, has won the AAD Assault Course Championship and stood second in firing competition. Second Lieutenant Hamza is the junior most officer he joined the Athwanja in September last year; he is second generation officer as his father Brigadier Basharat was also commissioned, commanded and now colonel of the regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Saeed Satti is the new commanding officer as his posting orders are out, Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj Lone is proceeding for Air War Course in July and if everything goes by the plan then his dine out, installation of colonel of regiment ceremony and publishing of this book are all planned in first week of July. Lieutenant Colonel Satti's grandfather Subedar Hassan Dil was among the pioneer JCOs of Athwanja who retired in November 1966. Gentleman Cadet Saeed Satti was eager to join his grandfather regiment and got the claimed basing upon his grandfather pension book.

Sargodha Garrison is giving a paradigm change, the newly constructed sports complex opposite officers mess is a state of art facility which has captured the heart and soul of the garrison. Major General Goraya himself a keen basketball player duly deserves laurel and appreciation for such a wonderful , much needed and a source of health and mental joy outlook. In the evening it seems as if every officer and children are out in open, basketball court, covered badminton courts, gymnasium, mini cinema hall, covered swimming pool, futsal, volleyball court alongwith renovated squash court. In my week long stay, there were friendly matches of every game taking place. Wonderful experience indeed.

End note.

On 10 June 2022, the good news of two of Athwanja's officers being promoted to the next rank was received with jubilation. Colonel Mehraj Khan, he served in the regiment in June 2004 and Lieutenant Colonel Ahsan Saleem who joined regiment as second lieutenant and also commanded it.



*Capt Shehryar*



*Lt Col Saeed Satti*



*Sub Hassan Dil*



*Brig (R) Uzair*

In the meanwhile the Biennial Fitness for War Inspection was also carried out. My personal gratitude to Brigadier (R) Uzair he has been on the strength of Athwanja while he was proceeding for Command & Staff College and presently serving in Army Institute of Military History. A last effort was made to get as much relevant pictures as possible, it was a partial success. Thus lack of pictures is a sore point but it is unavoidable, one way to cover up this deficiency is to cover as much as possible , the present setup and events in Regiments. In the end , it has been a wonderful journey with the regiment, Captain Shehryar, Captain Usman were of great moral help . I would like to offer deepest gratitude to the Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Mairaj Alam Lone.



### ***BIENNIAL EVALUATION OF COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS - JUNE 2022***

***From Left to Right:*** Capt Luqman (Adj), Maj Noman, SM Hameed, Col Saeed, Lt Col Mairaj (CO), Maj Annas (2IC), Capt Sharraf , Capt Shehryar (QM)

***Standing:*** Lt Haseeb, Capt Osman, Sub Shabbir, Sub Shahnawaz, Sub Liaqat, N/Sub Tariq, Sub Murad, N/Sub Asif



## XII

### Galaxy of Officers Served in Athwanja Since 1966

| Ser | Rank and Name                           | Date of unit joining | Remarks |
|-----|---|----------------------|---------|
| 1   | Maj MA Qadeer Khan as 2IC               | Jan 1966             |         |
| 2   | Lt Col AKM Shamsul Alam as CO           | Feb 1966             |         |
| 3   | Maj Malik Muhammad Khan as reservist    | Feb 1966             |         |
| 4   | Capt Rab Nawaz                          | Feb 1966             |         |
| 5   | Capt Amir Khan                          | Feb 1966             |         |
| 6   | Capt Feroz Khan                         | Mar 1966             |         |
| 7   | 2/Lt Javed Ahmed                        | Mar 1966             |         |
| 8   | 2/Lt Muhammad Afzal Kha                 | Mar 1966             |         |
| 9   | 2/Lt Jarrar Ahmed Khan Burki            | May 1966             |         |
| 10  | Maj Painda Khan Mirza                   | Jun 1966             |         |
| 11  | Maj Fayyaz Ali Siddiqui                 | Jul 1966             |         |
| 12  | 2/Lt Muhammad Ijaz Butt                 | 27 Dec 1966          |         |
| 13  | Capt Arshad Ahad                        | May 1967             |         |
| 14  | Maj Muhammad Iqbal (2 <sup>nd</sup> CO) | Jun 1967             |         |
| 15  | Capt Abdul Waheed                       | Jun 1967             |         |
| 16  | Maj Jamil Ud Din Hyder                  | Oct 1967             |         |
| 17  | Maj Khursheed Ahmed Khan                | Jun 1968             |         |
| 18  | Capt Muhammad Fahim Khan Durrani        | Jun 1968             |         |
| 19  | 2/Lt Musarrat Khalique                  | Apr 1969             |         |
| 20  | Capt Muhammad Sulaiman Malik            | Apr 1973             |         |
| 21  | Lt Col Syed Wilayat Hussain             | 17 Dec 1973          |         |
| 22  | Maj Amin Ul Haq                         | 6 Jan 1974           |         |
| 23  | Maj MA Lodhi                            | 7 Feb 1974           |         |
| 24  | Capt Muhammad Aleem Farooqi             | 9 May 1974           |         |
| 25  | 2/Lt Atta Ur Rehman Khattak             | 16 Apr 1974          |         |
| 26  | Maj Abdul Aziz Khan                     | 2 Jun 1974           |         |
| 27  | Capt Abdul Halim                        | 13 Jul 1974          |         |
| 28  | Capt Safdar Amin                        | 30 Aug 1974          |         |
| 29  | Capt Sajjad Ayub                        | 27 Sep 1974          |         |
| 30  | Capt Zia Ul Haq                         | 9 Mar 1975           |         |
| 31  | 2/Lt Nazir Ahmed                        | 30 Apr 1975          |         |
| 32  | Maj Zaffar Iqbal                        | 25 May 1975          |         |
| 33  | Maj Daud Humayun Baig                   | 15 May 1975          |         |
| 34  | Capt Ahmed Yar Bandial                  | 25 May 1975          |         |
| 35  | Lt Col Alam Sher Malik                  | 11 Jun 1975          |         |
| 36  | Capt Muhammad Bakhsh                    | 12 Sep 1975          |         |

|    |                                 |             |  |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 37 | 2/Lt Muhammad Farid Ullah Khan  | 29 Oct 1975 |  |
| 38 | Maj Tariq Mahmood               | 24 Nov 1975 |  |
| 39 | Capt Razi Haider Abbas          | 24 Jan 1976 |  |
| 40 | Maj Masud Ahmed                 | 27 Jan 1976 |  |
| 41 | Maj Mushtaq Hussain Shah        | 5 Feb 1976  |  |
| 42 | Capt Muhammad Iqbal Khan        | 5 Feb 1976  |  |
| 43 | 2/Lt Saeed Wazir Butt           | 19 Oct 1976 |  |
| 44 | Capt Ernest Shamas              | 23 Apr 1977 |  |
| 45 | Lt Col Muhammad Hanif Samar     | 23 May 1977 |  |
| 46 | Lt Azeez Ul Haq                 | 2 Jul 1977  |  |
| 47 | Maj Khaleel Ur Rehman           | 11 Jul 1977 |  |
| 48 | Maj Nayyer Hamid Qureshi        | 5 Feb 1978  |  |
| 49 | 2/Lt Fahim Ur Rahim Khan        | 23 Apr 1978 |  |
| 50 | Capt Muhammad Usman Ali         | 2 May 1978  |  |
| 51 | Maj Muzaffar Ali Khan           | 20 Nov 1978 |  |
| 52 | Capt Nazar Muhammad             | 23 Jun 1979 |  |
| 53 | 2/Lt Sohail Bashir              | 25 Oct 1979 |  |
| 54 | 2/Lt Zulfiqar Hussain           | 28 Mar 1980 |  |
| 55 | Capt Syed Mushtaq Ali           | 2 May 1980  |  |
| 56 | Capt Muhammad Saleem Malik      | 16 Jul 1980 |  |
| 57 | Lt Iftikhar Ahmed               | 7 Jul 1980  |  |
| 58 | Maj Nazir Ahmed Moughal         | 21 Sep 1980 |  |
| 59 | 2/Lt Khalid Mahmood Raja        | 25 Oct 1980 |  |
| 60 | Lt Col Muhammad Jamil           | 5 Jan 1981  |  |
| 61 | Capt Sajjad Ahmed               | 10 Jan 1981 |  |
| 62 | Maj Muhammad Sarwar             | 24 Jan 1981 |  |
| 63 | Maj Muhammad Riaz Malik         | 31 Jan 1981 |  |
| 64 | Capt Muhammad Pervez Akbar      | 4 Apr 1981  |  |
| 65 | 2/Lt Tariq Mahmood Butt         | 5 Apr 1981  |  |
| 66 | Maj Majid Hussain               | 4 Jan 1982  |  |
| 67 | Capt Asad Ullah Jan             | 9 Jan 1982  |  |
| 68 | Capt Ihsan Ur Rehman            | 21 Feb 1982 |  |
| 69 | Maj Razi Haider Abbas           | 19 May 1982 |  |
| 70 | Maj Muhammad Aslam Gill         | 13 Jul 1982 |  |
| 71 | 2/Lt Abdul Samee Khan           | 23 Sep 1982 |  |
| 72 | 2/Lt Ghulam Ali Mughal          | 27 Mar 1983 |  |
| 73 | Lt Col Umar Hayat               | 9 Apr 1983  |  |
| 74 | Maj Tanveer Rafi                | 6 May 1983  |  |
| 75 | Lt Col Umar Hayat               | 19 May 1983 |  |
| 76 | 2/Lt Muhammad Mushtaq Saghir    | 20 Jun 1983 |  |
| 77 | 2/Lt Mahmood Ul Islam           | 23 Sep 1983 |  |
| 78 | Maj Zahir Ud Din Muhammad Babar | 1 Jan 1984  |  |
| 79 | 2/Lt Muhammad Farooq            | 26 Mar 1984 |  |
| 80 | Capt Akhtar Hayat Malik         | 30 Apr 1984 |  |



|     |                                  |             |  |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 81  | Maj Abdul Wahid                  | 1 May 1984  |  |
| 82  | Maj Shafqat Hussain Raza         | 4 May 1984  |  |
| 83  | 2/Lt Aamir Mushtaq Cheema        | 15 Sep 1984 |  |
| 84  | Maj Tahir Mahmud Qazi            | 7 Jan 1985  |  |
| 85  | Capt Muhammad Saleem Malik       | 10 Jan 1985 |  |
| 86  | Maj Muhammad Sarwar              | 7 Feb 1985  |  |
| 87  | 2/Lt Tariq Mahmood               | 27 May 1985 |  |
| 88  | Maj Abrar ul Waheed              | 15 Jul 1985 |  |
| 89  | Maj Zakir Hanif                  | 1 Aug 1985  |  |
| 90  | Maj Musarrat Khaliq              | 25 Sep 1985 |  |
| 91  | 2/Lt Amanat Ullah Javeed         | 15 Nov 1985 |  |
| 92  | 2/Lt Tahir Mahmood Akbar         | 21 Sep 1986 |  |
| 93  | Maj Javed Riaz Khan              | Feb 1987    |  |
| 94  | Capt Hamad Raza                  | Apr 1987    |  |
| 95  | 2/Lt Aleem Ud Din                | Apr 1987    |  |
| 96  | Lt Col Ilyas                     | 18 Nov 1987 |  |
| 97  | 2/Lt Muhammad Hafeez             | 8 Apr 1988  |  |
| 98  | Capt Abdul Majeed                | 31 May 1988 |  |
| 99  | Maj Mehboob Haider               | 7 Jun 1988  |  |
| 100 | Maj Muhammad Ashraf Saleem       | 4 Jul 1988  |  |
| 101 | 2/Lt Asim Ali                    | 18 Sep 1988 |  |
| 102 | 2/Lt Muhammad Tahir              | 17 Oct 1988 |  |
| 103 | Capt Muhammad Jahangir Bajwa     | 29 Oct 1988 |  |
| 104 | Capt Tahir Masood                | 12 Feb 1989 |  |
| 105 | Lt Col Nasrullah Khan            | 6 Apr 1989  |  |
| 106 | 2/Lt Muhammad Raheel Aslam       | 18 Mar 1990 |  |
| 107 | Capt Muhammad Shoukat Hayat Khan | 10 Apr 1990 |  |
| 108 | Capt Ahmed Waqas Saleh           | 10 Apr 1990 |  |
| 109 | Maj Tanvir Ashraf                | 29 Apr 1990 |  |
| 110 | Maj Javed Aziz                   | 8 Jul 1990  |  |
| 111 | Maj Tariq Mehmood Khan           | 9 Dec 1990  |  |
| 112 | Capt Syed Mehmood Shahab         | 9 Dec 1990  |  |
| 113 | 2/Lt Farooq Zaman                | 27 Mar 1991 |  |
| 114 | Maj Hidayat Ullah                | 1 Apr 1991  |  |
| 115 | Maj Sajjad Ahmed                 | 11 May 1991 |  |
| 116 | 2/Lt Imran Hussain               | 21 Oct 1991 |  |
| 117 | Maj Tahir Masood                 | 9 Nov 1991  |  |
| 118 | Maj Muhammad Zahid               | Jan 1992    |  |
| 119 | Maj Muhammad Arshad              | 19 Feb 1992 |  |
| 120 | Maj Mukhtar Hussain              | 5 Mar 1992  |  |
| 121 | 2/Lt Aamir Shahzad               | 27 Apr 1992 |  |
| 122 | Maj Rashid Hafeez                | Jul 1992    |  |
| 123 | 2/Lt Arshad Amin                 | 26 Oct 1992 |  |
| 124 | Maj Abdul Majeed                 | 5 Nov 1992  |  |

|     |                                  |             |  |
|-----|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 125 | Capt Muhammad Shoaib Khan        | 15 Jun 1993 |  |
| 126 | Lt Col Khalid Hameed Shah        | 16 Jul 1993 |  |
| 127 | 2/Lt Marghoob Ali Khan           | 24 Oct 1993 |  |
| 128 | Maj Asad Mehmood                 | 5 Nov 1993  |  |
| 129 | Maj Muhammad Uzair Ahmed Qureshi | 25 Nov 1993 |  |
| 130 | Maj Rab Nawaz                    | 8 Jan 1994  |  |
| 131 | Capt Ghulam Ali Mughal           | Mar 1994    |  |
| 132 | Maj Zafar Iqbal                  | 17 Jun 1994 |  |
| 133 | 2/Lt Basharat Ali Khan           | 23 Oct 1994 |  |
| 134 | Maj Abdul Ghafoor                | Nov 1994    |  |
| 135 | Capt Mahmood Ahmed               | Dec 1994    |  |
| 136 | 2/Lt Muhammad Javed              | 23 Apr 1995 |  |
| 137 | Lt Col Muhammad Pervez Akbar     | 15 Jun 1995 |  |
| 138 | Maj Abid Javeed                  | 22 Jul 1995 |  |
| 139 | Maj Tariq Mehmood                | 28 Aug 1995 |  |
| 140 | Maj Ijaz Ahmed                   | 2 Jan 1996  |  |
| 141 | 2/Lt Javed Iqbal                 | 13 Oct 1997 |  |
| 142 | Capt Ayyub Ansari                | Apr 1998    |  |
| 143 | 2/Lt Danis Javed                 | Oct 1998    |  |
| 144 | Maj Tahir Mehmood Akbar          | 4 Sep 1999  |  |
| 145 | Capt Zaki Anwar Khan             | Nov 1999    |  |
| 146 | Maj Muhammad Farooq              | 12 Dec 1999 |  |
| 147 | Maj Amjad Bashir Hussain         | 9 Jun 2000  |  |
| 148 | Capt Tahir Shamim                | 29 Jun 2000 |  |
| 149 | Maj Muhammad Tahir               | 18 Jan 2001 |  |
| 150 | Maj Asim Ali                     | 27 Jan 2001 |  |
| 151 | 2/Lt Muhammad Umar Farooq        | 22 Apr 2001 |  |
| 152 | Capt Muhammad Abid Latif         | Oct 2001    |  |
| 153 | Capt Mirza Amjad Ali             | Oct 2001    |  |
| 154 | Capt Umar Bashir                 | Oct 2001    |  |
| 155 | 2/Lt Muhammad Yahya Jan          | Oct 2001    |  |
| 156 | Maj Mian Shahab Un Saqib         | 1 Sep 2002  |  |
| 157 | Maj Syed Aftab Iqbal             | 26 Aug 2002 |  |
| 158 | Maj Sibghat Ullah Faried         | 26 Aug 2002 |  |
| 159 | Lt Col Mueen Ul Haq              | 27 Sep 2002 |  |
| 160 | Maj Syed Humayun Zahir Naqvi     | 13 Oct 2002 |  |
| 161 | Maj Shakeel Ahmed Khan           | 15 Oct 2002 |  |
| 162 | Capt Azam Ali Shahida            | 19 Dec 2002 |  |
| 163 | Capt Asif Shamim                 | 19 Dec 2002 |  |
| 164 | Maj Jawad Ahmed Zaka             | 22 Jan 2003 |  |
| 165 | Capt Amjad Rasool                | 29 Jan 2003 |  |
| 166 | Capt Muhammad Salman Aslam       | 6 Apr 2003  |  |
| 167 | 2/Lt Muhammad Saeed Satti        | 13 Apr 2003 |  |
| 168 | Maj Mahmood Nizam                | 16 May 2003 |  |



|     |                                    |             |  |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 169 | Maj Nauman Ashaar Khan             | 11 Jun 2003 |  |
| 170 | Capt Muhammad Javed                | 10 Jul 2003 |  |
| 171 | Maj Mahmood Ul Hassan              | 4 Aug 2003  |  |
| 172 | 2/Lt Asif Kamran                   | Nov 2003    |  |
| 173 | Maj Muhammad Tayyab                | 6 Feb 2004  |  |
| 174 | Maj Zia Ullah                      | 20 Apr 2004 |  |
| 175 | Maj Muhammad Irfan                 | 12 Jun 2004 |  |
| 176 | Capt Muhammad Mehraj Khan          | 19 Jun 2004 |  |
| 177 | Maj Kausar Hameed                  | 18 Aug 2004 |  |
| 178 | Maj Ahmed Nadeem Sadal             | 1 Nov 04    |  |
| 179 | Maj Basharat Ali Khan              | 26 Dec 2004 |  |
| 180 | Lt Muhammad Naseer Ud Din HumYn    | 6 Nov 2004  |  |
| 181 | 2/Lt Muhammad Yousaf               | 17 Apr 2005 |  |
| 182 | Maj Muhammad Hafeez                | 9 Jul 2005  |  |
| 183 | Lt Col Tasir Hussain Shah Kazmi    | 21 Aug 2005 |  |
| 184 | 2/Lt Muhammad Haris Nauman         | May 2006    |  |
| 185 | Lt Bilal Akhtr Kiyani              | 8 Jul 2006  |  |
| 186 | Capt Umair Ejaz                    | 1 Oct 2006  |  |
| 187 | Capt Mohsin Ali Majid              | 27 Oct 2006 |  |
| 188 | Capt Mughis Raza                   | 21 Nov 2006 |  |
| 189 | Capt Shahzada Tahir                | 21 Nov 2006 |  |
| 190 | 2/Lt Muhammad Atta                 | 14 Apr 2007 |  |
| 191 | Capt Afzaal Ahmed                  | 4 Aug 2007  |  |
| 192 | 2/Lt Muhammad Adeel Ghalib         | 19 Apr 2008 |  |
| 193 | Maj Farooq Zaman                   | 25 Jul 2008 |  |
| 194 | 2 / Lt Muhammad Shafaq Naveed      | 22 Oct 2000 |  |
| 195 | Maj Atteq Ur Rehman                | 10 Oct 2008 |  |
| 196 | Capt Irfan Shahid                  | 6 Oct 2008  |  |
| 197 | 2/Lt Asmat Ullah                   | 25 Oct 2008 |  |
| 198 | 2/Lt Marghoob Ali Khan             | 24 Oct 93   |  |
| 199 | 2/Lt Muhammad Amjad Naz            | 27 Oct 2009 |  |
| 200 | 2/Lt Raees Ahmed                   | 27 Apr 2010 |  |
| 201 | Capt Sarmad Zaman                  | 31 Aug 2010 |  |
| 202 | Lt Col Amjad Rasool                | 12 Sep 2010 |  |
| 203 | Maj Aamir Shahzad                  | 3 Jan 2011  |  |
| 204 | Maj Kashif Javed                   | 10 Apr 2011 |  |
| 205 | 2/Lt Muhammad Haroon Shahzad Anjum | 8 Jun 2011  |  |
| 206 | Capt Imran Khan Niazi              | 3 Jul 2011  |  |
| 207 | Maj Javed Iqbal                    | 1 Nov 2011  |  |
| 208 | Maj Kamran Zaheer                  | 21 Apr 2012 |  |
| 209 | 2/Lt Muhammad Annas Bin Khalil     | 12 Apr 2012 |  |
| 210 | Maj Mairaj Alam Lone               | 21 May 2012 |  |
| 211 | Maj Muhammad Faisal Khan           | 1 Aug 2012  |  |
| 212 | Capt Jehna Zaib Khan               | 22 Jul 15   |  |

|     |                              |             |  |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 213 | Capt Wasi Ullah              | 14 Jun 13   |  |
| 214 | Maj Muhammad Shakeel         | 11 Jun 16   |  |
| 215 | Capt Majid Abbas             | 2 Dec 12    |  |
| 216 | Maj Rashid Subhani           | 20 May 2013 |  |
| 217 | 2/Lt Noman Hameed            | 21 Apr 2013 |  |
| 218 | Capt Hafiz Mutee Ullah       | 29 Apr 2014 |  |
| 219 | 2/Lt Zafeer Iqbal Malik      | 30 Oct 2014 |  |
| 220 | 2/Lt Ali Akhtar Abbas        | 29 Apr 2015 |  |
| 221 | Capt Aqeel Jibran Ahmed      | 18 Oct 2016 |  |
| 222 | Maj Danish Javed             | 20 Oct 2016 |  |
| 223 | 2/Lt Muhammad Bilal Qureshi  | 26 Oct 16   |  |
| 224 | Lt Col Ahsan Saleem Malik    | 26 Aug 2017 |  |
| 225 | 2/Lt Sharaf Khan             | 24 Oct 2017 |  |
| 226 | 2/Lt Muhammad Shehryar       | 15 Apr 2018 |  |
| 227 | 2/Lt Luqman Ismail           | 14 Oct 2018 |  |
| 228 | 2/Lt Usman Ahsan Butt        | 4 Apr 2019  |  |
| 229 | 2/Lt Muhammad Haseeb Shakeel | 22 Oct 2019 |  |
| 230 | Maj Aurengzeb Khan           | 22 Oct 2019 |  |
| 231 | 2/Lt Ahmed Arif              | 5 Apr 2020  |  |
| 232 | 2/Lt Mustafa Amir Malik      | 31 Oct 2020 |  |
| 233 | 2/Lt Shah Faisal             | 11 Apr 2021 |  |
| 234 | 2/Lt Ali Hamza Khan          | 10 Oct 2021 |  |



*Maj Nazir Mughal (R)*



*Lt Col Safdar Ali (R)*



*Lt Col Abdul Majeed (R)*



*Lt Col Raheel (R)*



*Col Mushtaq (R)*

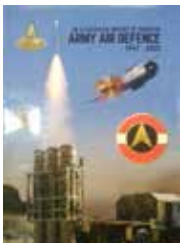


*Lt Col Ghulam Ali (R)*





*Author Major (R) Aamir Mushtaq Cheema with 2/Lieutenant Shah Faisal the youngest officer of the Regiment, September 2021*



## Author

Major Aamir Mushtaq Cheema retired (1984-2008) was commissioned in 58 MAA in September 1984, earned his Flying Brevet in 1989 and later served on the faculty of Army Aviation School. He did his Master of Letters in War Studies from University of Glasgow in 2009, presently a Ph.D scholar in Peshawar University. *His other works include 'Royal Air Observation Corps 1935-1956', 'An Illustrated History of North Waziristan Militia 1895-2012', 'An Illustrated History of Chitral Scouts 1903-2014', 'An Illustrated History of Khyber Rifles 1878-2015', 'An Illustrated History of Punjab Rangers', 'An Illustrated History of Cobras' 'An Illustrated History of Army Air Defence 1947-2021' and co-authored 'An Illustrated History of Pakistan Army Aviation 1947-2007'.*



*15 Sep 1984*



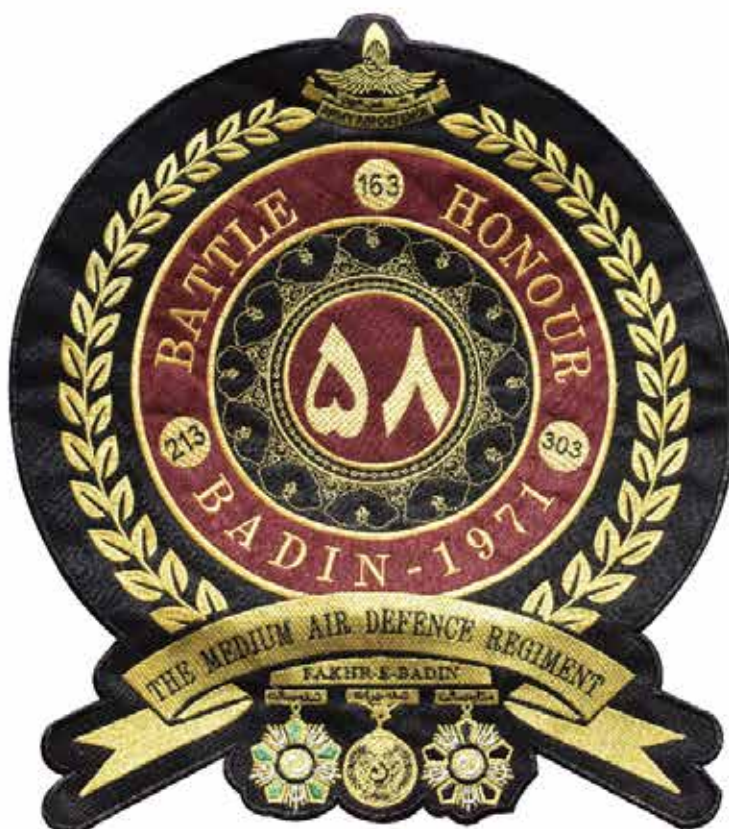
*Striking Three*



*AADC*



*Four Dots*



*1966 - 1989 Formation Sign*



*58 Medium Air Defence Regiment at Muzaffargarh firing ranges - March 2022*

